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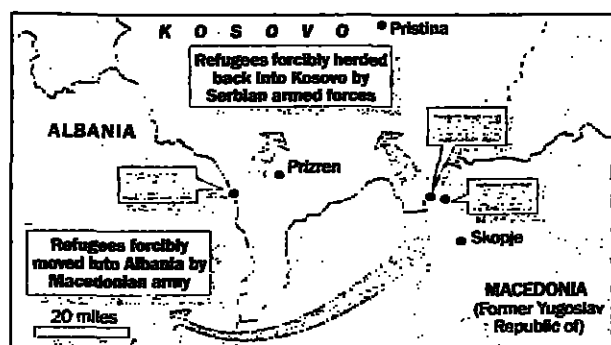
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'The Macedonians worked even faster than the Serbs to get these people out of their country'



Refugees moved at dead of night



A doll, family albums, passports: all went under the bulldozer at Blace, reports Daniel McGroarty

THE United Nations led the condemnation yesterday of a midnight raid by Macedonian troops to evict forcibly 30,000 refugees from their makeshift camp on the border.

And there was further alarm as the Serbs suddenly closed their borders at Blace and Jazince, ordering thousands of ethnic Albanians back to their homes in Kosovo. Nato officers fear they will now be used as human shields against allied attacks.

At Blace, aid workers described how Macedonian soldiers spread through the camp tearing down tents and dragging families on to buses that were then driven across the neighbouring border.

In the frightened mêlée, parents were separated from children and most were prevented from bringing even the few possessions they salvaged when they fled Kosovo.

The UNHCR called this evacuation brutal and a fundamental violation of human rights. "You do not move people at dead of night without telling anyone where they are going and split up families in the haste to tip them out of your country," an official said.

As dawn rose over what had suddenly become a ghost camp there was ample and poignant evidence of how ruthlessly these thousands of Kosovo Albanians were moved. A child's doll lay trampled in the mud. Passports and documents were strewn among a tangle of clothes and in the mud were obviously treasured keepsakes such as a family photo album and letters. Jars of baby food sat open on tables made from cardboard boxes. Meals were half-eaten, a radio

was still playing and a leather jacket hung from a tree.

A worker with the Islamic charity El Hilal said: "The soldiers just stormed the camp. Children were screaming. Some refugees tried to escape and troops fired over the heads and hauled them back to the buses, beating them with their rifles. We were not allowed to help them."

He said that Serb troops hiding in an abandoned frontier village became embroiled and grabbed some of the refugees back on to their side of a border marked by the railway line that was used 11 days ago to expel these refugees.

The eviction was over within seven hours. Christopher Thomas of the American Red Cross said: "The Macedonian soldiers worked even faster than the Serbs to get these people out of their country."

But senior Macedonian Government officials accused Nato countries of hypocrisy, saying: "You complained when we didn't move the refugees quickly enough and now you criticise us when we do empty that camp."

The Macedonian President, Kiro Gligorov, was also unrepentant, saying: "This was the right thing to do. Albania is their native land, and it should accept the refugees and the international community should help to get them there."

Standing on the edge of the deserted camp yesterday, Major-General John Drevienkiewicz, acting head of the Org-

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Balkans war, pages 4-9
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Deserted village: belongings salvaged by refugees as they fled Kosovo lie abandoned after their second eviction from Blace

Mersey dash to save US prisoners

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE three American soldiers captured by Serb forces and being held as POWs could be freed today after a surprise intercession by a veteran Cypriot politician. Spyros Kyprinou, the parliamentary president, expects to fly to Belgrade this morning after declaring that he was confident he could secure their release.

He has been in close contact with the Serbian leadership and, if successful, hopes to return with them to Cyprus.

"I believe, I hope my mission will succeed," he said as he left for Athens where Greece has provided a plane for Belgrade. His original schedule called for him to fly Belgrade last night but the Greek Govern-

ment was told by Washington that it was impossible for any commercial planes to enter Yugoslavian airspace because of Nato's bombardment.

The gesture by the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, came a day after Nato brushed aside his offer of a ceasefire for the Orthodox Easter this weekend. Freeing the Americans would remove the huge public outcry in the United States.

The three, which Nato says were non-combat troops, were seized near the border between Macedonia and Kosovo. Belgrade threatened to put them on trial as spies but later said it would free them when the bombing ended.

WHERE TO SEND YOUR MONEY

£5 million was donated in the first 24 hours of an appeal by 12 British aid charities who have united under the auspices of the Disasters Emergency Committee to help the Kosovan refugees. Other charities have also received thousands of pounds. All are seeking money rather than goods.

Disasters Emergency Committee:
Phone lines: 0870 606090 and 0990 222233.

Cheques: Kosovo Crisis Appeal, PO Box 999, London EC4A 9AA.

Refaid:
Phone line: 01732 520111.

Cheques: RefAid-Kosovo Appeal, UK for UNHCR, 21st floor, Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London SW1 4QP.

Action Against Hunger:

Phone line: 0171-242 5665

Postal address: Action Against Hunger UK, 1 Canton Street, London WC1R 4AB.

Donations may also be made at banks and post offices.

Government U-turn on Pill warning

By HELEN RUMBELOW

THE Government has made a U-turn on its advice on contraceptive pills, four years after health warnings caused panic and led to an estimated 30,000 abortions.

Jeremy Metters, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, said yesterday the abortions were "regretted". The Government released new guidelines reversing the 1995 safety alert when it warned women and GPs that the leading "third generation" brand of pills were so risky they should not be taken unless absolutely necessary.

The alarm affected about two million women, half of all British women taking oral contraceptives. Twelve per cent immediately stopped taking the pill and abortions, which had been on the decline, rose by 9 per cent that year and are continuing to rise.

Medical experts and manufacturers blamed the Government for the sensational health scare which was based on evidence that had yet to be

published. The research had found that women taking third generation pills, which contain the progestogens called desogestrel or gestodene, were about twice as likely as those on other pills to have blood clots in their legs. But the risk was still very small - 25 women in 100,000.

Those statistics were called into doubt and after appeals from the drug manufacturers the Committee of Safety on Medicines (CSM) reconsidered. Dr Metters said that the risks remained the same as in 1995 but they were very small and as long as women were informed of them they could be prescribed the third generation pills as their first choice.

"Of course I regret unnecessary abortions. But the CSM gave the advice they thought was right at the time. It was important that women should be told exactly what the risks were. If we had sat on the data there would have been a national outcry."



"It's like spot-the-ball but harder"

Police tackle runaways

Twelve players from Ivory Coast's under-19 rugby team have gone on the run apparently in the hope of staying in Britain. Police in South Wales say they are hopeful of finding them because they have only a smattering of English, and are believed to be wearing their navy blue team trackuits.

Man of 61 admits Mardi bombings

By RICHARD DUCE AND ADAM FRESCO

A MAN aged 61 admitted yesterday that he was the Mardi Gra bomber who waged a 3½-year campaign across London and the Home Counties.

Edgar Pearce, a former advertising employee from Chiswick, West London, tried to extort millions of pounds from Barclays Bank and Sainsbury's as he planted 36 devices, the Old Bailey was told.

The bombs contained pins and ball bearings. By the time his campaign was brought to an end, six people were injured and only luck stopped anyone from being killed. The cost to Sainsbury's is estimated at £640,000 in lost trade. Barclays spent £140,000 on extra security.

The bombs became more sophisticated as Pearce's campaign developed, and police regarded him to be as dangerous as the IRA. The devices were first delivered to bank branches from December 1994 and later left outside Sainsbury's supermarkets. Pearce's

demands were open-ended with no time limit set on how long the blackmail would continue. He hoped to use cash-point machines to receive up to £10,000 each day. In the end, he had withdrawn £700 when he was trapped. He will be sentenced in a few days.

Detective Chief Superintendent Jeffrey Rees, from the Organised Crime Group, said: "This was a callous, calculating individual who was wholly indifferent to the possibility that the devices might cause death or serious injuries."

Pearce admitted 20 charges, involving blackmail attempts, the possession of explosives and wounding. Charges against his brother Ronald, 67, were dropped. Ronald admitted possessing a stun gun but the prosecution accepted he played no part in the extortion. He was sentenced to 12 months but released because of time he has spent in prison.

Full story, pages 2 & 3



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Twisted mind of invisible man

THE BOMBER

Reports by Stewart Tendler,
Richard Duce and
Adam Fresco

AS THE Mardi Gra bomber spread fear and alarm across London during his three-year terror campaign, detectives were advised to look for a single man or woman, no more than 40 years old, who could even be a renegade police officer.

Sitting in his West London terraced house with its neatly tended garden, 61-year-old unemployed Edgar Eugene Pearce probably allowed himself a smug smile of satisfaction as he realised police were no nearer to ending his home-made bombing exploits.

The son of a former East End tailor far from fitted the criminal profile offered by experts but with the benefit of hindsight there were alarming signs of a twisted mind at work. The few people who knew Pearce regarded him as an obsessive perfectionist who had slipped into eccentric behaviour which included getting up at dawn every day to cook himself a roast for breakfast. At his three-storey council house in a Chiswick cul-de-sac Pearce had a well equipped workshop where he would while away the time by working on clocks and electronic gadgetry. It was here that he was eventually to piece together the simple bombs he made from a video box, spring and shotgun cartridge.

Edgar Pearce and his brother Ronald, 67, grew up in the East End of London where they went to local schools. Edgar decided on a career in advertising and, after attending college, worked for several London firms before moving to South Africa in 1971. He stayed there for the next five years and, along the way, acquired a working knowledge of firearms. By the time he returned to Britain he had married his wife Maureen and the pair set up a restaurant busi-

ness in Hayling Island, near Portsmouth, known as Jeanne's Cuisine.

The business seems to have been a success although Pearce's wife fell ill around the time of dealings with Barclays Bank which left him with his grudge against the bank. When Pearce was deciding on his first target for an extortion plan it was Barclays that came to mind.

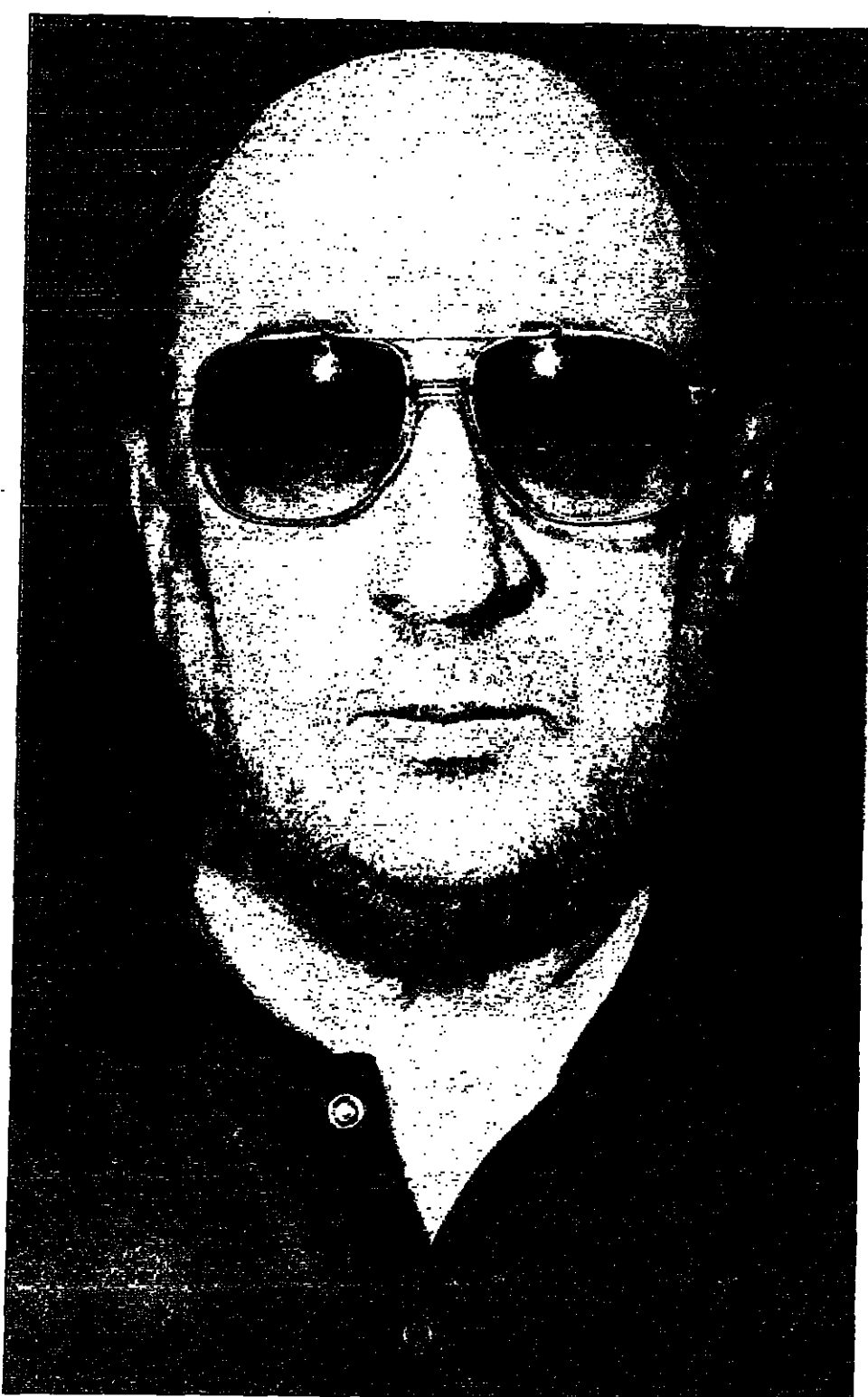
The couple sold up in 1982 and moved to Chiswick with their daughter Nicola, before they eventually separated in 1987, although they remained on close terms.

Pearce would carry out DIY work on his former wife's home in Eltham, South-East London.

Pearce replaced his family by taking in lodgers at the house and neighbours remember him as an elusive outsider. He was distinctly unpopular with the local children, threatening them and telling them that he would poison their dogs, when he saw them playing in the street close to his front garden and his precious plants. There was a closed-circuit camera over the front door — he told children playing nearby it was to ensure that they did not go near his flowerbeds.

He spent most of his time with his brother Ronald, a former Savile Row tailor, who lived less than a mile away in West London. They drank at the Crown and Anchor public house on Chiswick High Road, only a few doors from the home Ronald Pearce shared with partner Sonia Bickham.

In June 1995, after being barred from the pub, apparently for rowdy behaviour, Edgar Pearce sent one of his devices to Andy Bennett, the landlord — he was the eighth target, Mr Bennett said later. "I thought someone had a vendetta



Edgar Pearce: an obsessive perfectionist who had slipped into eccentric behaviour

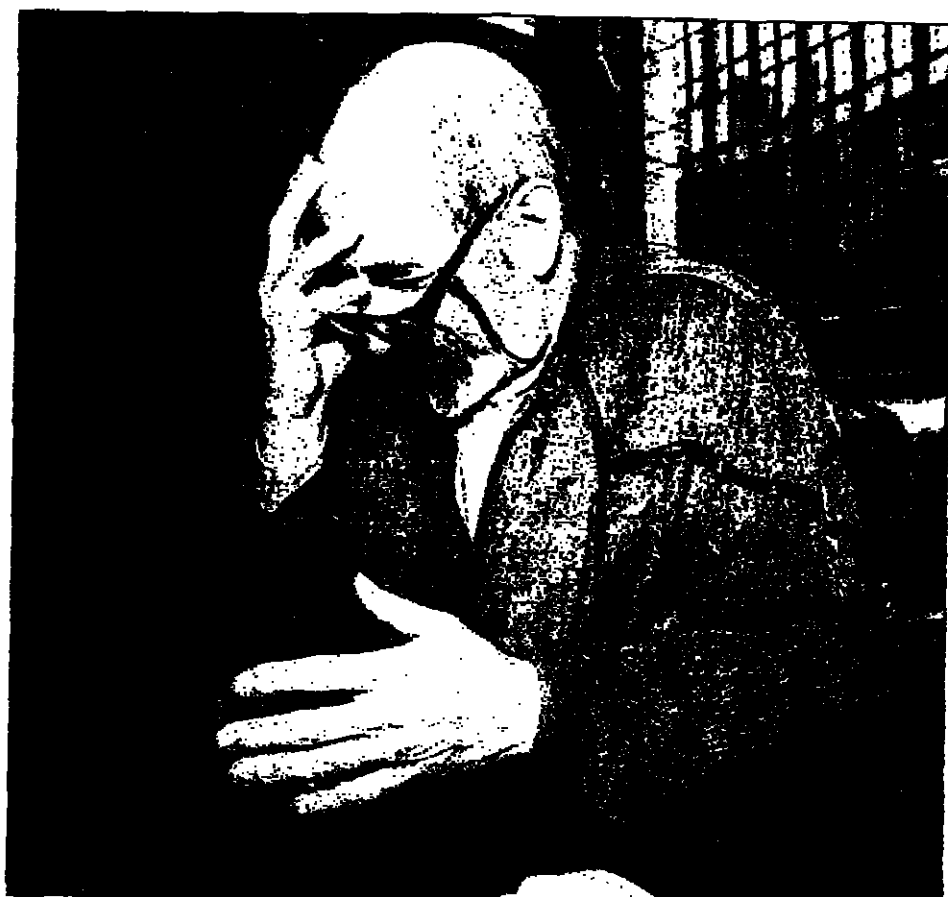
against me but I racked my brains and couldn't think why."

Pearce was known to be intelligent and knowledgeable about current affairs but his neighbour Breda Williams said that he would ignore everyone else in the street. "He

was weird. He wouldn't speak to anyone at all." Other neighbours thought of him as the "invisible man" because he was so rarely seen in the street.

At night, Pearce, who was a heavy drinker, would sit by the side of his garden pond

reading until the small hours. Professor David Canter, director of the centre of investigative psychology at Liverpool University, said that Edgar Pearce was on a "search for some sort of feelings of achievement and self-worth rather than escape".



Ronald Pearce tries to shield his face after being freed at the Old Bailey yesterday

Girlfriend consoles ex-Savile Row tailor

THE brother of the Mardi Gra bomber was "drawn into something he knew nothing about", his girlfriend said as he was freed from prison.

Ronald Pearce, a former Savile Row tailor, was sentenced to a year in jail for possessing the stun gun that was found when he was arrested with his brother Edgar as he withdrew money from cash machines. He was freed yesterday because of the time he has spent in jail awaiting trial.

Ronald Pearce, bespectacled and wearing a grey sweat-shirt, celebrated his freedom with Sonia Bickham at a restaurant in Chiswick, West London, with a cup of hot chocolate and a salad.

The couple sat holding hands as they chatted, catching up on lost time. Miss Bickham, who has known Ronald

THE BROTHER

for 35 years, denied that the brothers were as close as was believed. The shop assistant, who has stood by her man throughout, said: "They have not really been close at all. They have never been close, but they are brothers."

"Ronald was drawn into something he knew nothing about," Miss Bickham added that she was "elated" by the news that her boyfriend had walked free from court. "Nobody knew what was going to happen. I spoke to him last night and he said, 'Cross your fingers I'll be home.'"

"His solicitor phoned me this morning with the good news. The last year has been a living nightmare but I always thought it would come to a

good end." Miss Bickham said that they would be celebrating his release in private, and that they had no plans to marry. "He wants to get back to reality. He'll get through this. I don't know if he'll forgive it. He does feel bitter."

She described Ronald as "artistic in every way", adding: "He's a master of whatever he does."

A few hours earlier Ronald Pearce had listened intently in court as the Recorder of London told him: "You have not offered any explanation for your possession of this weapon. But the prosecution cannot say that you intended to use it in any way in the campaign conducted by your brother."

Pearce left court yesterday afternoon refusing to speak to waiting reporters.

Daytime television gave inspiration for blackmail and bombs

A DAYTIME television repeat captured the imagination of Edgar Pearce. The programme focused on Rodney Witchelo, a former detective who tried to extort almost £44 million from firms after he contaminated baby food.

Witchelo was jailed for 17 years. Pearce, jobless and with time on his hands after a car accident which he says rendered him incapable of working, was riveted by the programme and believed he could go one better and evade capture. His first job was to establish a target and he hit on Barclays Bank, remembering a ten-year-old disagreement which he blamed for his wife falling ill when they ran a business together.

Then came the technological know-how on bomb building, which he pieced together from a television programme depicting spring-loaded cartridge devices. Over three years, the devices became more and more sophisticated as he grew in confidence.

Aware of the dangers of buying suspicious components close to home, he toured car boot sales. During trips to

THE PLOT

France, he stocked up on shotgun cartridges which he brought back in cases of wine.

He always wore gloves when carrying a bomb to its intended site and always wore the same jacket, which he never wore at home. When he made Sainsbury's his target, Pearce often placed devices inside the store's branded bags, cutting out serial numbers which linked bags to stores.

Pearce spoke French and decided to call himself the Mardi Gra bomber with his campaign starting on a Tuesday. He deliberately left the "S" from the end so that police would know that the bombs were his work. His first six bombs were sent to branches of Barclays which had been picked at random from Yellow Pages. He labelled them with a cutting from a home entertainment magazine which read: "Welcome to the Mardi Gra Experience."

Pearce switched from targeting Barclays when the bank's chairman expressed concern about the bomber and Pearce

believed that he would use the attacks as an excuse to close branches. He targeted Sainsbury's because he thought that it might be vulnerable to extortion as it fell behind Tesco in the supermarket war.

He sent secretly snatched pictures of Sainsbury's shoppers to the Daily Mail, hoping to generate publicity for his cause and to pressure the supermarket to pay up. When the newspaper did not publish the photographs, he decided to use more dangerous devices to get publicity. Hearing that the IRA was using gas cylinders to achieve bigger explosions, he incorporated a wide range of devices in his campaign. These included a timed device which would fire shrapnel or cartridges from a length of tubing in a black bin liner.

It was only when he was caught on a police video camera in March 1998 in Eltham that officers knew for certain that they were hunting for a man. Black and white pictures showed him walk across the road, dump a black sack containing a shotgun device and walk off without looking round once.

A DEGREE IN TERROR

EDGAR PEARCE had studied and learnt from the crimes of Theodore Kaczynski, the American known as the Unabomber. Pearce shared the American terrorist's careful preparation and planning, his ability to avoid detection for long periods, and an obsessive joy in outwitting his pursuers.

Kaczynski, who was a professor at the University of California at Berkeley in the 1960s, eluded American investigators for 18 years while carrying out a string of terrorist attacks. By the time he was jailed for life in May last year, he had killed three people and injured 28 with home-made bombs containing razor blades and nails.

His motives were never clear. Kaczynski had sent newspapers a rambling 62-page manuscript in which he demanded a return to "wild nature" and railed against technology, the US Government, and major corporations, and was fitted in some quarters as a radical environmentalist.

Kaczynski, then 55, was last year sentenced to three life terms for his terrorist crimes, and to another 30 years for killing three men and maiming two others.

Lethal devices made in garden

THE ARSENAL

By ADAM FRESCO
AND RICHARD DUCE

THE potentially lethal bombs designed by Edgar Pearce in the garden workshop of his council house became increasingly sophisticated as his terror campaign developed.

His first simple but effective device was built around an empty video box. Inside there was a shotgun bridge and a simple doorbolt which acted as the firing mechanism. When the box was opened, a spring-loaded device shot the bolt into the 12 bore cartridge. One of the more elaborate devices in-



A gun and bullets recovered from Pearce's home

involved a butane gas cylinder connected to an electric circuit, timer and gas lighter which was then placed inside a plastic bin liner. It was planted on February 1996 outside Barclays bank in Eltham High Street and Pearce partially opened the gas valve, allowing the plastic bag to inflate. The timer set off the lighter which he had planned

to ignite the escaping gas. Police believe the device, which was spotted in time by a refuse collector, would have created a lethal fireball.

Another device adopted by Pearce was a "shotgun bomb" which involved placing a length of copper piping on a concrete base which, with the use of a timing device, would fire a cartridge. Other adaptations of the shotgun bomb involved the tubing being packed with panel pins or ball bearings.

Pearce had converted his greenhouse into a workshop for his bombmaking activities. When police finally raided the property they found six gas cylinders and a dozen 12 volt batteries, further devices and two crossbows.

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BALKANS WAR: AIR CAMPAIGN

Airborne cameras stalk death columns

Bombers queue in the air ready to act on instant information from sophisticated surveillance, reports

Michael Evans, Defence Editor

YUGOSLAV troops and paramilitaries engaged in "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo are being monitored by an array of Western surveillance technology in the sky.

When they dare to venture into the open, it is just a question of time before Nato bombers arrive armed with anti-personnel cluster bombs or anti-tank projectiles to attack. President Milosevic's men are facing a period of high risk.

At this stage in the air campaign, Nato's advanced technology should change the odds. Yugoslav forces must act discreetly to hide from the airborne cameras and reconnaissance systems — the easiest way to outsmart the smartest of high-tech equipment.

The organisation has in place a network of surveillance systems linked to ground stations or to airborne command aircraft which can provide immediate information to waiting bombers about the location of Yugoslav armoured columns on the move.

With the emphasis turning increasingly to attacks on ground forces, the urgent need is for instant-response aircraft missions. If bombers wait on Italian airbase runways for information to be data-linked back to ground stations, then analysed, it could still be two hours before they are over targets. This is why, according to Paul Beaver of Jane's Information Group, Nato is expected to operate a "cab rank" approach, with aircraft queuing in air space, ready to react the moment armoured columns

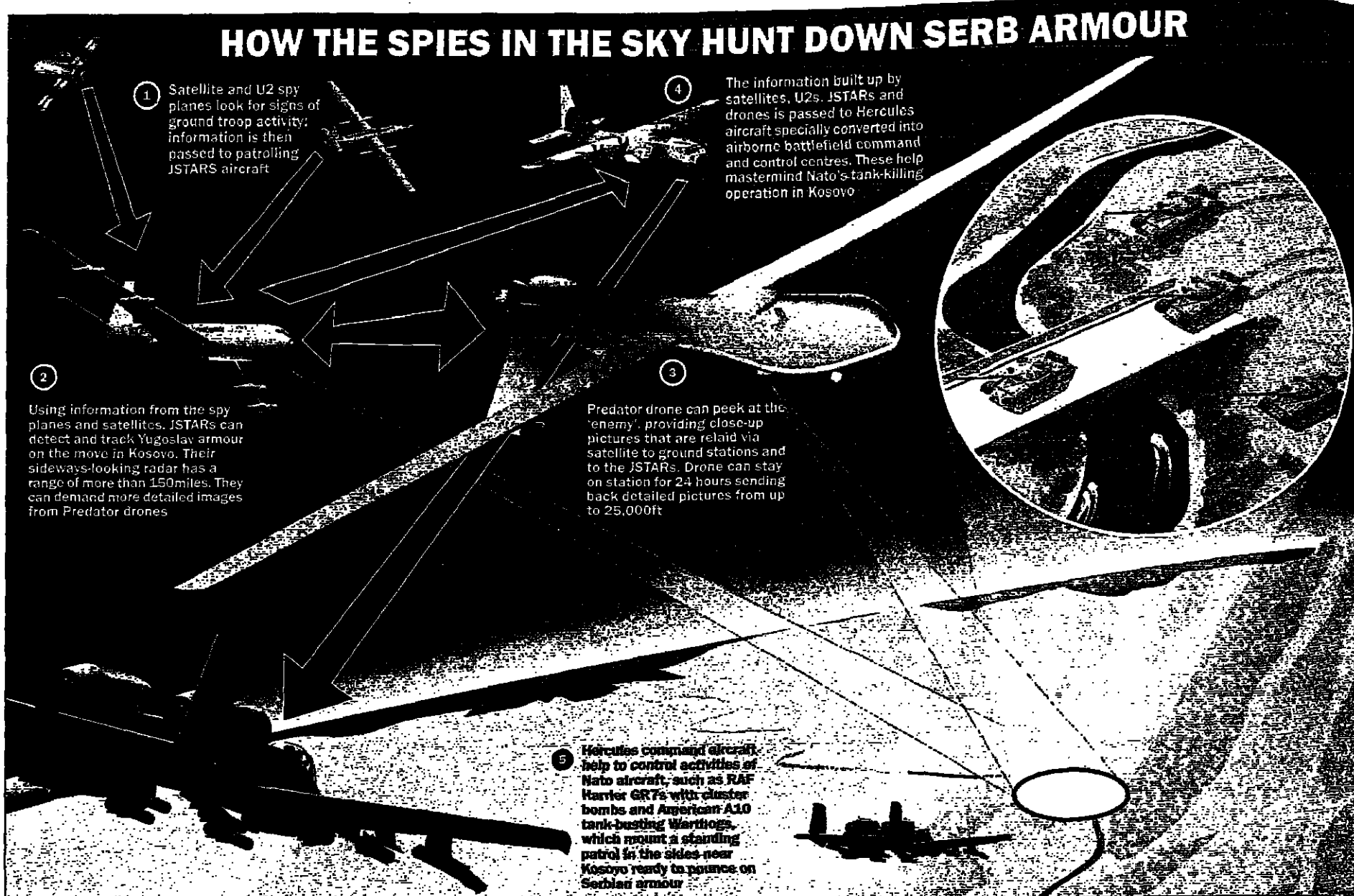
make an appearance — a strategy used in the Gulf War.

To facilitate the instant response, the Americans have "airborne battlefield and control centre" Hercules aircraft, called EC130E (ABCCC), which have extensive communications antennae. Just as the Avics provide air-battle management for all Nato aircraft operating over Yugoslavia, the modified Hercules supervise tank-killing operations.

Two US airborne surveillance systems and a German unmanned air vehicle (drone), as well as a range of reconnaissance aircraft, are operating all hours to catch Yugoslav troops in the open. A principal watcher locating, classifying and tracking ground targets in all weathers is the American Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, called JSTARS or Joint Stars, which was first used in the 1991 Gulf War. The joint US Army/US Air Force aircraft can look "sideways" into Kosovo from more than 150 miles away.

The Joint Stars is a modified Boeing 707 with a phased array radar antenna that can provide targeting and battle management data to operators in the aircraft and to ground stations. The radar can detect slow-moving vehicles and, helped by advanced signal processing, can tell the difference between wheeled and tracked vehicles.

When focusing on a smaller area of terrain, the radar image can be enhanced to provide a higher-resolution picture; and the Joint Stars'



advanced synthetic aperture radar produces a photographic map of selected geographic areas, pinpointing precise locations of non-moving targets

such as bridges, airports or parked vehicles. The radar is reputed to be able to cover nearly 400,000 square miles of territory in a

single eight-hour sortie. The Joint Stars is aided by two unmanned drones that provide even more precise tactical intelligence. These systems are the

American Predator, used over Bosnia-Herzegovina since October 1995, and the German CL289.

The Predator, operating from a maximum altitude of 25,000ft, can produce pictures so clear that it is as if the camera is perched a few feet above the target. The German system consists of reusable

drones that fly pre-programmed missions, sending back pictures. They return to ground by parachute.

'Human shields' limit Harriers' choice of targets

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS
IN GIOIA DEL COLLE

RAF Harrier jet pilots resumed hazardous daylight raids on Kosovo yesterday but were being impeded by Serb military commanders using ethnic Albanian villagers as human shields, the RAF said. "Cluster-bomb units have been dropped today but

there were fewer targets available than before," said Group Captain Ian Travers Smith, an RAF spokesman at the Gioia del Colle base in south-eastern Italy.

Asked what the problems facing the flyers were, he said: "There have been targets identified that were deemed unattainable."

Group Captain Travers Smith said

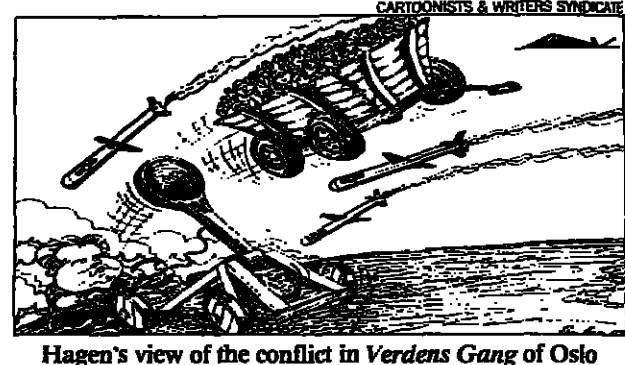
that it was up to the pilots to make a final judgment over whether their bombs might cause unacceptable collateral damage or civilian casualties. "They have the pickle button," he said. "They are directed toward a target, if in their opinion the target is attackable it is their final decision."

Questioned whether Serb military convoys threatened by the Harriers

had been moving into inhabited villages to avoid being bombed this week, Group Captain Travers Smith said: "Well what would you do? If somebody called you on a mobile phone and said that there were planes approaching you from 20 miles away, wouldn't you go and hide in a village?"

The latest daylight attacks by the

Harriers were mounted just hours after a night raid launched on ammunition stores where the RAF acknowledged it achieved only "limited success" because of heavy anti-aircraft fire. The raid was also hampered by smoke and haze and a possible technical problem in one aircraft, but all the pilots brought their GR7 fighter-bombers back safely.



Hagen's view of the conflict in Verdens Gang of Oslo

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BALKANS WAR: BOMBING OFFENSIVE

Nato steps up
air war as Serbs
tighten noose

TONY BLAIR yesterday made the defeat of Serbia's ethnic cleansing policy the "absolute precondition" of Nato calling off its assault against President Milosevic.

He joined President Clinton to warn the Yugoslav President that there could be no compromise over Kosovo and that the bombing would continue unabated.

"There would be no half-measures, no compromise," Mr Blair said in a headline message that was also designed to prepare the country for further attempts by Mr Milosevic to divide the Nato alliance.

With the West claiming that Mr Milosevic's ceasefire offer in Kosovo had been spurned by weakness, Mr Blair raised the stakes.

He said on Sky News that for Nato's bombing to stop, the policy of ethnic cleansing "has to be reversed and be seen to be defeated. That is the absolute precondition of Nato ceasing its action".

Then, on ITN, he added: "Milosevic must withdraw his forces from Kosovo, he must cease the policy of ethnic cleansing, and he must allow an international force in to allow people to return to their homes and villages."

"That must be the only set of terms on which Nato must settle this matter. Nothing less will do, no half-measures, no compromise."

In the interviews Mr Blair hinted that Kosovo refugees allowed into Britain were likely to be the elderly, sick and injured.

Downing Street sources said that the refugees coming to Britain would be granted "exceptional leave to remain". They would be housed in such places as old schools, hospitals and military establishments, but their stays there would be temporary.

The Prime Minister's comments came as a new strategy by Mr Milosevic to force eth-

nic Albanian refugees back into Kosovo was causing widespread concern within Nato and the United Nations.

Throughout the day there was confusion over the whereabouts of thousands of refugees who had been queuing up at the borders with Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Meanwhile, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that Nato was "ramping up" attacks on Yugoslavia.

More than 100 Nato aircraft were being sent on bombing missions throughout yesterday, including American B52 and B1B long-range bombers based at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire.

Asked about reports that Nato aircraft had hit targets in Montenegro, despite an alliance policy to exclude the Yugoslav republic from further bombing, a Nato official said there had been no "pre-planned targets". If confirmed, it would be the first attacks on Montenegro for a week.

Mr Cook said: "If Milosevic wants out, he is going to have to try a lot harder [with peace terms]. The bottom line for us and all Nato is that President Milosevic must reverse the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo by allowing its people to return under international protection."

Nato is examining 49 alleged Yugoslav atrocities in Kosovo, and nine Yugoslav colonels have been named as potential war criminals. But there was no evidence, a Nato official said, that 50 villages

had been torched since April 3. Jamie Shea, the Nato spokesman, said that the alliance was deeply preoccupied by the stories of war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law in Kosovo.

He said: "Every day brings in more evidence and Nato governments will be building a case in these next few days and weeks against those who are responsible." He said three mass graves had been identified from refugees' reports in the towns of Drenica, Malisevo and in the Pagarusa Valley in Kosovo.

Mr Cook said that there was evidence of killings in the past 24 hours, including reports of a mass execution carried out at Pastic, in southwest Kosovo, and the murder of 35 civilians at Sopi, northwest of Pastic.



Robin Cook with Bili Djonballaj, an interpreter for the now closed British Embassy in Belgrade, and, left, Baton Haxhiu, a former editor in exile, during his announcement yesterday to fund a news network for Kosovans

Cook attacks Milosevic's greed

By MICHAEL EVANS

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, taunted President Milosevic yesterday, challenging him to come clean about his secret bank accounts, his villas on Greek islands and

his "luxury yacht". In a direct challenge to Mr Milosevic, he said: "Your people have seen the economy of Serbia more than halved during your time in power."

"Tell the people of Serbia how much wealth you have

sucked out of Serbia during the same years that they have been impoverished. Show your people the photographs of the villas you and your family own in Athens, Corfu and Crete. Let them see the luxury yacht you keep in Greece

while they struggle to make ends meet."

He added: "And come clean with the reservists who are being called up, whether it is true that your son and his family are sitting out the war at their villa in Greece."

Brussels
unveils
£175m aid
package

THE European Union yesterday unveiled a £175 million package of aid to Macedonia and Albania, the two states bearing the brunt of the exodus from Kosovo, and raised the prospect of long-term economic favours as a reward for coping with the crisis and aiding the Western alliance.

At the same time, EU interior ministers thrashed out a politically sensitive plan to share out the burden of housing refugees evacuated from Kosovo and to divide the costs.

Top Russian officials also held talks at Nato's headquarters as Germany and France pressed to bring Moscow into planning for a peace deal.

The EU aid package, expected to be approved by foreign ministers today, is part of an effort to finance the humanitarian relief operation and also to shore up the fragile governments of Macedonia and Albania, which stand to receive some £70 million in compensation payments.

Missile kills at
least 9 in flats

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

STATE media in Serbia reported civilian casualties of two bombing raids yesterday as a missile went through a block of flats.

A Belgrade television station, quoting a journalist with the state Tanjug news agency in Kosovo, claimed that at least nine people had died and others were seriously injured. Dozens more could be missing in the rubble, Tanjug said.

Earlier in the day several television channels carried pictures of Zoran Andjelkovic, head of the emergency Kosovo government, picking through the ruins. The images were not dated through the day, a state television's ability to transmit has been hampered by bomb damage to its stations.

Tanjug said that a Turkish family of five named Gashi were killed in the blast, including children aged nine, seven and six. An Albanian also died, along with a Serbian steel worker. Another body was seen trapped beneath a masonry wall, and a ninth not been identified. Local rescue workers said their clearing-up opera-

tion was being hampered by unexploded ordnance. Selected international television crews were taken to the scene yesterday by the Yugoslav Army.

The Third Corps of the Yugoslav Army confirmed that it had halted operations in the province after the declaration of a unilateral ceasefire by President Milosevic of Yugoslavia. Sources would not confirm reports that Nato had hit a military convoy in Kosovo for the first time; they did say, however, that army barracks in the western city of Pec had suffered overnight damage.

BK television in Belgrade reported that at least ten missiles hit central Pristina and the city's airport. The other main damage reported from Tuesday night's strikes was in Novi Sad, where an oil refinery was blown up. Interviews with two night watchmen who survived were played on all media channels throughout the day.

Although Nato dismissed Mr Milosevic's ceasefire as a negotiating bluff, the Yugoslav President appeared determined to push his own solution to the crisis.

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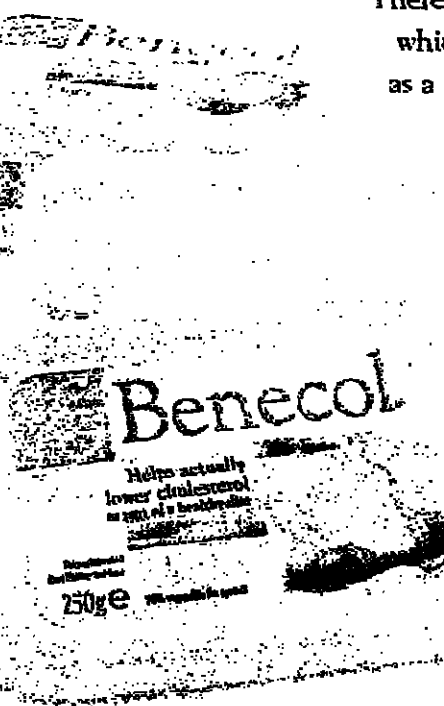
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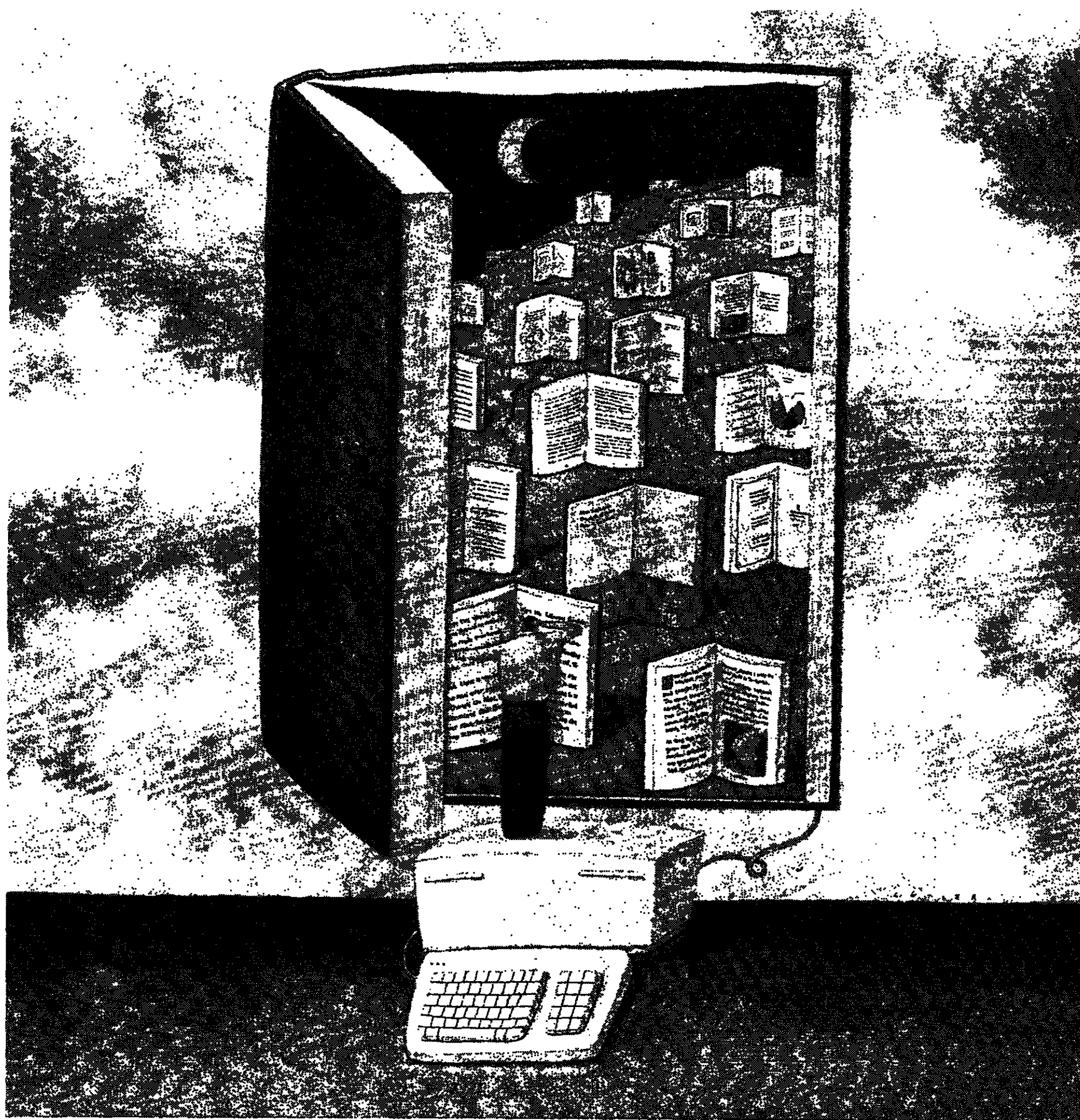
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BALKANS WAR: POLICY DOUBTS

Albright made US scapegoat



The Secretary of State is being accused of misreading Milosevic, Ben Macintyre reports from Washington

Madeleine Albright, the hawkish US Secretary of State, has come under heavy fire in America for misreading President Milosevic and plunging America into a war in the Balkans without a clear idea of how to get out.

As the NATO bombardment continues, the US media have turned on Ms Albright as the principal American architect of that policy, accusing her of following an agenda based more on wishful thinking and personal inclination than diplomatic and military realities.

The wave of recrimination has raised the issue of whether Ms Albright can long retain her office if Mr Milosevic cannot be removed from his.

"Albright misjudged Milosevic on Kosovo," declared an untypically stark headline in *The Washington Post* yesterday, in which the Secretary of State was accused of basing US policy on the mistaken belief that the Serb leader would back down either before, or very soon after, NATO resorted to force.

"These miscalculations about the efficacy of the threat... have led the United States and its allies into an air war in Europe that has produced some of the same negative consequences they said they were trying to head off," the newspaper stated.

Forced on to the defensive, the combative Ms Albright has refused to acknowledge that US policymakers have been wrong-footed by the level of Serbian defiance or the scale of "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo. Indeed, she has declined to discuss the steps that led to the bombardment.

"We will have plenty of time to go back and look at what we did or did not do... I am completely focused on what we are doing now," she said on Tuesday.

Ms Albright's critics say she played the leading role in rejecting the warnings of senior intelligence and military advisers and persuading President Clinton of the need to use force.

She was also the most vigorous proponent of the view that air power alone would suffice, predicting that Mr Milosevic, "a playground bully," would back off after one sharp punch on the nose, despite evidence to the contrary shown by another "bully" in Iraq.

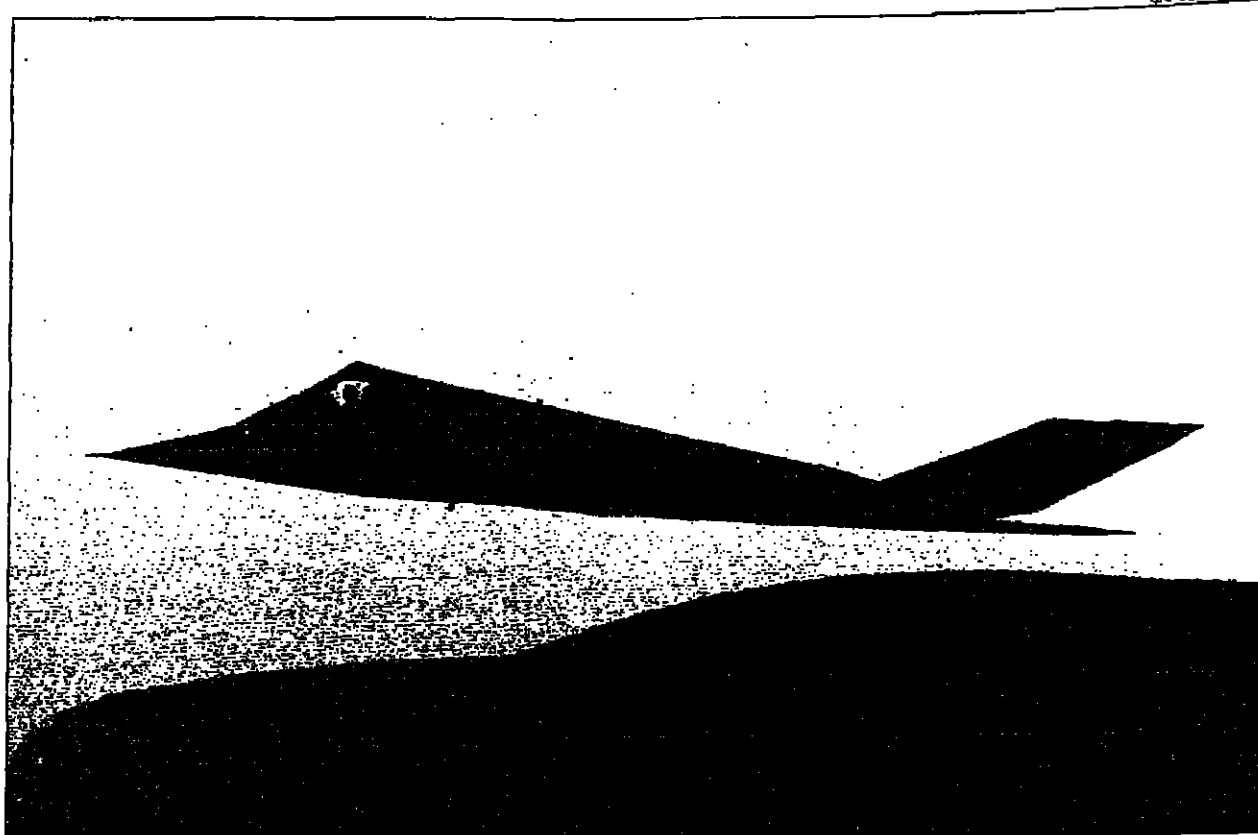
That Mr Milosevic might hunker down through the air attacks while accelerating his onslaught in Kosovo was considered by Ms Albright and her advisers to be the least likely of scenarios.

One official has described the Yugoslav conflict as "Albright's war", and critics have argued that her enthusiasm for military action against Serbia is a reflection not only of her own history, as a wartime refugee from Czechoslovakia, but also of her personal ambition.

Desperate for a foreign policy success to compare with that of Richard Holbrooke, with whom she has often joined over US policy in the Balkans, Ms Albright intended the peace talks at Rambouillet in France to be her own version of the Dayton accords and the apogee of her diplomatic career.

"Everyone in Albright's circle is very conscious of how anxious she is to have a victory to call her own. Instead, she now has a calamity of her own," wrote the columnist Arianna Huffington.

If the costly air bombardment continues without a definite result or, worse, evolves into a protracted ground war, then US public opinion is certain to be rather more than mildly irritated and there may be no one, least of all Bill Clinton, who will step in to save Ms Albright.



An F117A Nighthawk Stealth fighter en route from its base in Oklahoma to join the campaign against Yugoslavia

Nato is on target in ideological battle

For old Nato hands like me, some of the newspaper articles in recent days by former serving officers, many of whom are old friends and former colleagues, have revealed a worrying lack of understanding about the alliance.

There is real debate to be had about Nato's long-term role and how Kosovo will affect that. But from a military point of view, the crisis in the Balkans has shown Nato in a more positive light than its critics would have us believe.

Too many of these critics appear stuck in a Cold War mindset, and a Cold War that has been conveniently reassessed to fit their arguments. They portray Nato simply as a military counterweight to Russia, but it was more than that.

The North Atlantic Treaty opens with a commitment to safeguard the "freedom, common heritage and civilisation" of the member states. Nato was an ideological organisation when it was established in



Since Milosevic has assumed Stalin's mantle, the alliance had to act against him, writes Sir Jeremy Mackenzie

1949 and it is an ideological organisation today. What has changed fundamentally is the context for this ideology. Nato was founded to protect Western Europe against the bullying and repression of Soviet communism which made life miserable for so many of our fellow Europeans for most of the second half of this century.

Russia has renounced totalitarianism and the methods of inflicting it on its people against which Nato protected us. But the Soviet Union's Stalinist mantle has been assumed by President Milosevic. He is inflicting on Kosovo precisely the pain and suffering that Nato was conceived to guard against.

The architects of Nato were determined that Stalin's totali-

tarianism should be resisted. Since Mr Milosevic has inherited Stalin's legacy, it is absolutely right that Nato should act against him. We should also be clear that Nato's operation is not simply the United States and Britain acting as Europe's policemen. This is a war on behalf of Europe, being waged by Europe.

Of course, in today's vastly different world, the strategy and tactics of the Cold War will no longer do. This is not a war for our national survival but a campaign to prevent a humanitarian disaster on our continent. The ends are different and so must be the means.

I have no doubt that the Nato air offensive will achieve its aim of degrading Mr Milosevic's ability to wage war on the people of Kosovo. But I also know that this too will take time. Quick fixes such as the Gulf War are the exception to the rule, and any professional critic who says otherwise is doing us all a disservice.

Sir Jeremy Mackenzie was Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe for Nato between 1994 and 1998

How well was Blair briefed?

Did the men of Whitehall make Downing St fully aware of the risks involved in Nato's strategy? Sue Cameron asks



How strongly did Britain's top civil servants warn Tony Blair about the risks of his Balkan adventure? As it becomes clear that Nato has failed in its declared aim of protecting the Kosovan Albanians and the threat of a murderous ground war comes a little closer, civil service insiders are wondering if this war will go down as one of Whitehall's greatest failures.

"Did Whitehall bog it up?" asked one former top civil servant this week. "Or did the Prime Minister overrule civil servants when they laid out all the arguments against bombing Serbia? He has every right to do so, of course, but I am quite certain there will have been rumblings round the table of Committee Room C."

The large and elegant Committee Room C is in the Cabinet Office. It is where the permanent secretaries — the top civil servants in each government department — meet every Wednesday. It is chaired by the most senior mandarin of them all, Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary and confidant of Mr Blair. It is his success in forging a strong relationship with the Prime Minister that is raising eyebrows now.

Few in Whitehall doubt that Sir Richard will have put all the possibilities to Mr Blair. What some are wondering is whether he gave strong enough warnings about the worst-case scenarios. For rumblings at those top-level meetings in Committee Room C will all centre on the same things: how it was that the consequences of bombing were not thought through more thoroughly.

"Richard won't have wanted to jeopardise his relationship with Blair by going against a policy the Prime Minister wanted," said one man who has worked with

the top civil servant. "Sir Richard is very courageous and he has a brilliant mind," another former colleague said. "But he is... well, a bit of a courtier."

Sir Richard will not have been the only mandarin intimately involved in advising ministers on the crisis. Sir John Kerr, head of the Foreign Office, will also have played a key role, as will Kevin Tebbitt, senior official at the Ministry of Defence.

Sir John has spent much of his career in Europe, but his last post before taking over at the Foreign Office was as Ambassador in Washington and he is an Atlanticist. A former permanent secretary believes he may have been worried about the recent glitches in Britain's relationship with the US.

Some on the diplomatic circuit fear that Mr Blair's willingness to fall in behind the US bodes ill for the future of the "special relationship". As one former ambassador remarked: "We could be in for a period of poodledom."

Misgivings among diplomats are as nothing compared with the concern inside the Ministry of Defence.

The MoD must always be prepared for war. "It's what we keep them for and the military don't like to say no," one former permanent secretary said. However, the military has had its doubts from the start about the objectives of the Nato attack and whether Mr Milosevic could be bombed into submission.

In the Falklands conflict there was a clear, limited military objective — to oust the Argentine invaders, and only Britain and Argentina were involved. If Mr Blair hopes that this war will do for him what the Falklands did for Margaret Thatcher, he should think again.

Sue Cameron is a writer and broadcaster on Whitehall

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Yugoslavia stamps its defiance

A cheap weapon in time of war

By Christine MIDDAP

POSTAGE stamps are a relatively cheap propaganda tool in times of war.

David Beech, the head of the philatelic collection at the British Library, said that while stamps were often issued to commemorate a victory, it was not uncommon for them to be used for propaganda purposes.

"Essentially, the more need for propaganda the more extreme the stamps. They are common when a country needs to demonstrate what is happening for propaganda purposes," he said.

An example of this was a series of stamps issued by Russia in 1940 called "Occupation of Eastern Poland". The stamps depicted Poles welcoming Soviet troops and waving to columns of tanks. Another scene showed soldiers distributing newspapers to the people.

Hitler's head appeared on stamps in Germany from the 1930s. These survived the end of the Second World War, when the Allied occupation forces continued to use the stamps with the offending face masked by stars.

More recently, Hanoi issued stamps during the Vietnam War depicting victorious Vietnamese fighters on captured American tanks.

YUGOSLAVIA issued an anti-Nato stamp yesterday in a mark of protest at the allied airstrikes against its towns and cities.

The stamp depicts a bull's eye — the logo of Serb demonstrators. Beneath it is written "target", a capital "A" to denote the first in the series, and "Yugoslavia" in Cyrillic.

"We have had a huge number delivered and we are expecting more designs," said a cashier in Belgrade's main post office in Takovska Street last night. She said the stamps had no recent precedent, but philatelists in the city recalled the issue of a special series during the Second World War, when Belgrade was last bombed.

The stamp does not denote a denomination because of the plummeting value of the dinar. It can be used only domestically since all international mail deliveries have ceased. At yesterday's value, 50 stamps were selling for 102 dinars, or roughly £3.50.

The second issue in the series will feature an F117 Stealth bomber, the only US plane downed so far in the air war. The Stealth motif has already featured on a postcard from Budjnovci, where it came down. On the reverse side a message reads: "If undelivered, please return to the White House".

The bull's eye motif adorns T-shirts, baseball caps and badges. The more chic Belgraders also attach it to their pets as they take them for walks in the shopping district. As in the winter of 1996,

Belgrade mocks Nato with a postal flourish. Tom Walker in Belgrade writes

when tens of thousands demonstrated against the regime of President Milosevic, adversity seems to have brought out the city's creative best.

Television stations have shown an array of anti-Nato cartoons and sequences likening the Western alliance to Nazi Germany. BK television, run by Bogoljub Karic, the most powerful businessman in Serbia and a close friend of the Milosevics, has an especially creative graphics department. Yesterday the channel showed Nato aircraft flying in a swastika formation, followed by the simple caption: Deja vu.



The first postage stamp in the anti-Nato series

The issue of the stamps came after a bleak day for the Yugoslav postal system: earlier, state television showed pictures from Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, where the main post office had apparently been destroyed by a rogue Nato missile.

The country's telephone system is just coping, although the small mobile network service in Kosovo has ground to a halt after Nato destroyed a vital transmitter. Landlines are coming under increasing strain, and connections to friendly countries like Greece, Russia and Ukraine tend to be better and easier. All links with Britain went down for 24 hours two days ago.

The bombing of bridges in the northern city of Novi Sad has also severed some communications networks, and there are fears that Yugoslavia's few Internet service providers might soon fold. With the postal system almost non-existent, bills cannot be posted.

The television network is similarly threatened, and the state-run Radio Television Serbia now relies on the frequencies of other stations in towns and cities to broadcast its message. In many rural areas, there is no longer any television service.

Sources in Radio Television Serbia say they fear that the station's headquarters in central Belgrade could be targeted by Nato missiles, although the building is located in a more built-up area than the Interior Ministry, which was destroyed by a twin batch of Tomahawks last weekend.



Yugoslavs protesting at Nato raids display the bull's eye logo which they have adopted as their anti-war symbol

Nationalist demagogue thrives on catastrophe

NATO's rejection of Yugoslavia's ceasefire offer in Kosovo is likely to fuel a vicious battle now under way in Belgrade, one which pits Serb against Serb.

For the alliance bombing is helping to bolster the power of a former paramilitary leader said to be mentally scarred after being tortured and allegedly raped by Muslim prisoners when he served a jail sentence in his native Sarajevo.

Vojislav Seselj, the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister who counts among his friends Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian nationalist extremist, and Jean-Marie Le Pen, the French far-right leader, is determined to "cleanse" Serbia of the moderates and democrats he denounces as traitors and fifth columnists.

Masked men in the pay of Mr Seselj and his Radical Party are believed to be behind a campaign of beatings and intimidation aimed at ridding the country of human rights

Power struggle pits Serb against Serb. writes Eve-Ann Prentice

activists and champions of democracy. The victims include lawyers, journalists and intellectuals, many of whom have fled to Hungary.

Mr Seselj fosters a belief that the Nato bombings are largely the fault of moderates and his power base is spread at the expense of the moderates such as Vuk Draskovic, his counterpart in the federal Yugoslav Government. It was Mr Draskovic who on Tuesday announced the Kosovo ceasefire offer and even Downing Street recognises that his star is waning, saying that he has "zero power".

One aspect of Mr Seselj's campaign has been the closure of several leading independent Serbian newspapers and the respected B92 radio station. He is also believed to be behind the orders to instruct guards to keep foreign journalists out of the country by refusing to acknowledge visas issued by Mr Draskovic's ally, the Yugoslav Information Minister, Milan Kovic.

In the Byzantine world of Balkan politics, Mr Seselj has a complex relationship with President Milosevic and his wife, Mira Markovic.

Political analysts in Belgrade believe that the ex-paramilitary chief has been used by Mr Milosevic to garner support among the less well-educated. But now some fear that his frenzied anti-Western rhetoric may be sticking a chord with more moderate Serbs who are united against the Nato bombings.

Although Mr Seselj has in the past denounced Mrs Markovic, he and his party are closely allied to her United Yugoslav Left movement. A skilful manipulator of his audiences, Mr Seselj employs the same tactics as Mr Zhirinovskiy, making promises of money to those who have been hardest hit by sanctions — the mass of Serbian workers and pensioners.

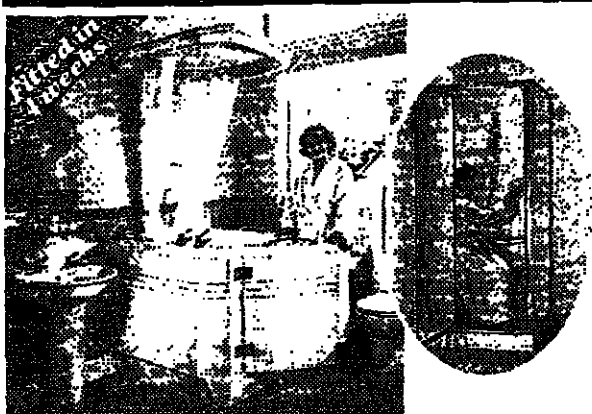
Born in Sarajevo in 1950, Mr Seselj was reported to be the brightest student of political science of his generation at Sarajevo University. However, he seems to have undergone a personality change after being jailed for 22 months in 1984, after the discovery of a "counter-revolutionary" document written by him. The manuscript, which was never published, advocated a multi-party system and the ending of republic status for Bosnia and Montenegro. Bosnia was too Muslim, he wrote in his treatise, while Montenegro was so full of Serbs that it should just be a natural part of Serbia. It was while serving his sentence that he was certainly tortured and allegedly raped by fellow prisoners. During the wars in Croatia and Bosnia, Mr Seselj led one of the two most feared paramilitary groups, the other being headed by Arkan.

Now Mr Milosevic faces a crucial choice — whether to throw in his lot with Mr Seselj, or to shore up the flagging support for Mr Draskovic. Clearly there is no longer room for both men in Serbia's corridors of power.



Seselj: experience in jail made him a hardliner

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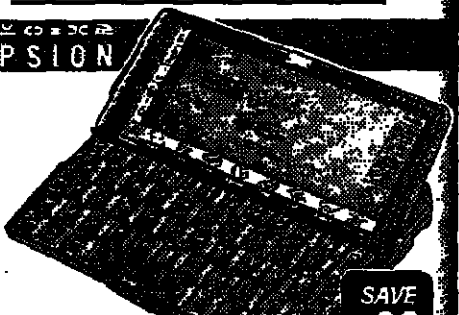
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Teenage girl dies in new danger sport

By ADRIAN LEE AND ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A BRITISH schoolgirl has died in Australia while "canyoning", an adventure sport that involves swimming through fast-flowing river gorges.

Siobhan Halls, 17, drowned in the Blue Mountains area, about 50 miles west of Sydney, where she was on holiday. She is believed to have hit her head on a rock. Her father, Richard, said yesterday that she was not wearing a safety helmet.

The relatively new activity has claimed several lives. It is recognised as one of the most dangerous of the "white-knuckle" activities, which include bungee jumping and white-water rafting. Canyoning involves following the path of a river by swimming, scrambling over rocks and abseiling down waterfalls.

Mr Halls, who runs a stables, said his daughter was a

keen horserider who was aware of the dangers of head injuries. "She would never ride without a helmet - that is what surprises me."

Miss Halls, from Steppingley in Bedfordshire, was with two male friends when the accident happened in the Mount Wilson area, near the town of Katoomba, where a network of creeks have cut deep, narrow gorges into the rock.

Her companions, both Australians, told police that they were swept away during the expedition along the Wollangambe River on Monday. They managed to drag themselves out of the swirling water but became separated from the schoolgirl.

Because the rugged mountain area is so remote, it took them five hours to raise the alarm. Miss Halls's body was recovered next day by New

South Wales police. It was wedged underwater by rocks.

Officers said yesterday that heavy rain had transformed the river into a fast-flowing flood, making conditions more risky than usual.

Mr Halls said his daughter, a lower sixth form pupil at Redborne Upper School in Amptill, Bedfordshire, was not a strong swimmer but was taking lessons.

Apart from a sailing course, she had not taken part in adventure activities before. A member of the Pony Club, she had ridden for Bedfordshire and had five horses.

She had travelled to Sydney with her mother, Jean, for a five-week holiday and was staying with an aunt. The two young men involved were friends of the family.

Bryant's Eye, page 49



Siobhan Halls, a keen horse-rider, was said by her father not to be a strong swimmer

Canyons give thrill-seekers ultimate high

By ADRIAN LEE

CANYONING evolved from potholing and abseiling as lovers of "extreme sports" continued their search for the ultimate outdoor thrill.

It is believed that the sport, which is sometimes known as "canyoneering", was invented by potholers looking for undiscovered caves in France or New Zealand. A combination of walking, swimming, jumping and climbing, it attracts only the most daring adventurers.

Activity and outdoor centres across the world include it in their programmes, alongside established "white-knuckle" pursuits, such as white-water rafting. In Scotland, one company asks would-be canyoneers to sign disclaimers stating that they feel confident with their heads under water in confined spaces. A session costs £32.

Hard-core enthusiasts take to rivers at night, sometimes throwing themselves 100ft into deep pools. Although Miss Halls was not wearing a hel-

met, most centres insist on one, as well as elbow pads, ropes, a wetsuit and buoyancy aids. Instructors with mountaineering qualifications are always present.

The sport has claimed at least one other British life. In 1996, a 43-year-old Ayrshire man died when he was sucked into a whirlpool while canyoning in the French Alps.

"Of course all these sports have an element of risk," said a spokeswoman for one British company. "Canyoning is about pushing yourself to the extreme."

In the Blue Mountains, a vast area of creeks and rivers, at least four companies offer one-day canyoning expeditions, and injuries are not uncommon. A worker at one adventure company in Katoomba said: "Canyoning is more dangerous than abseiling or climbing. You are often walking on slippery rocks and can fall. But if you go with a reputable company, the accident rate is low."

Twin drowned after coastguard dinghy warning

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A GIRL who drowned when her inflatable toy dinghy was swept out to sea died only hours after a warning by coastguards of the danger.

Hayley Butler, 12, is believed to have jumped out when the dinghy was about 10 metres from the shore in an attempt to swim to safety against the tide.

Her twin sister Hannah, and a cousin, also 12, got back to the beach at the small Lincolnshire resort of Huttoft, near Mablethorpe. But as her parents watched helplessly, Hayley sank within five minutes while clutching a plastic piddle.

After an incident involving two people in a dinghy the day before, coastguards had given warnings on local radio and in regional newspapers that inflatable dinghies were too flimsy and unstable to be taken into the sea.

The dead girl's mother, Tricia, 44, said: "Hayley was just a jolly kid. She was very good to the elderly neighbours near us. She was a very popular member of her class at school. We were just having a family afternoon on the beach with the kids when this happened."

The girl, whose father died



Hayley Butler: her twin sister made it ashore

several years ago, had lived with her mother, stepfather, twin sister and brother Dean, 15, in Mablethorpe since moving from Derby eight years ago.

By last night her body had still not been found but the dinghy was recovered 90 minutes after the incident, four miles off shore.

John Harrison, the Lincolnshire sector manager for HM Coastguard, said: "It's foolhardy using an inflatable dinghy at sea. During the summer we go along the beaches pleading with people not to go out in inflatables but they ignore us and some of them end up dead."

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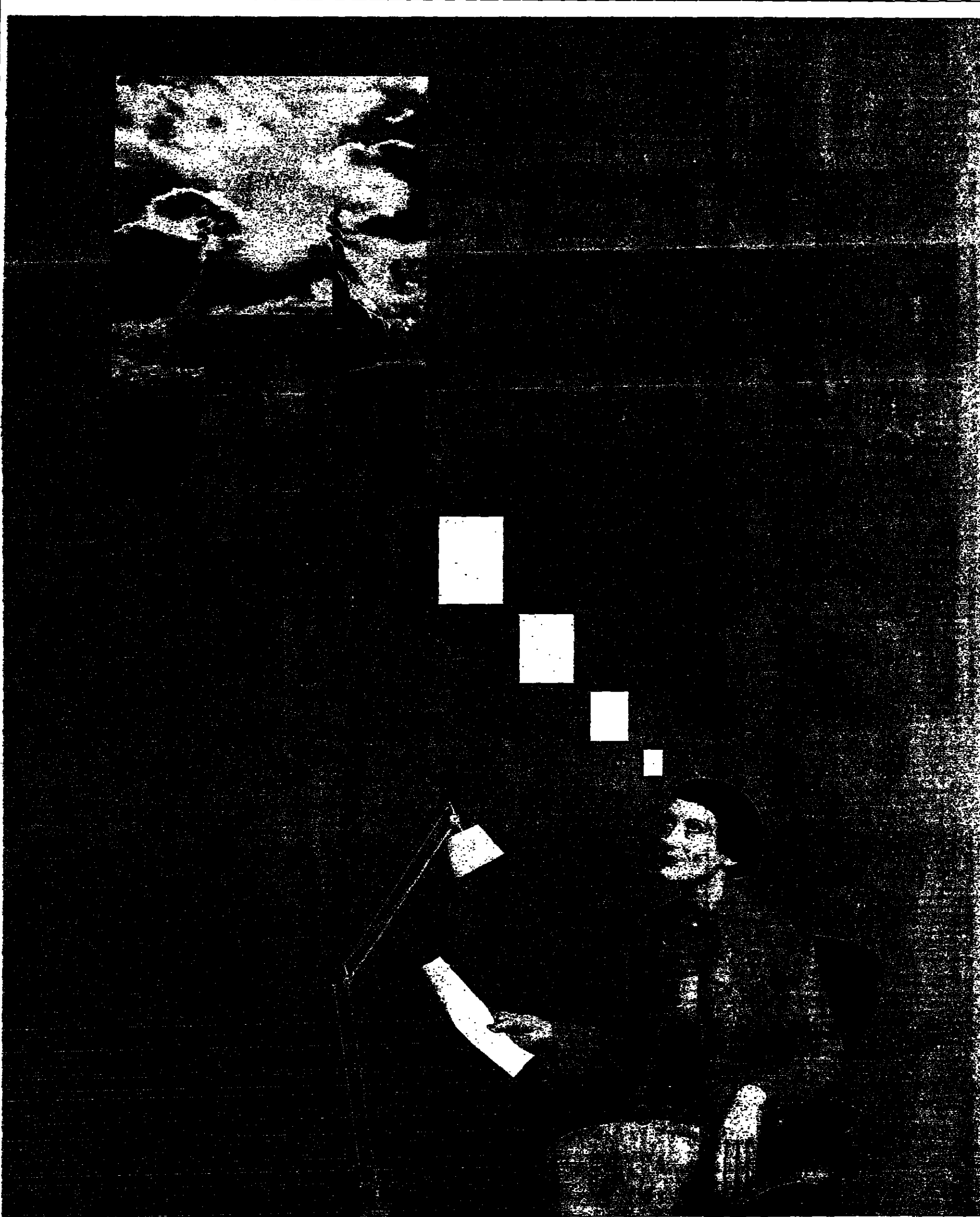
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Mobile phones 'quicken the brain'

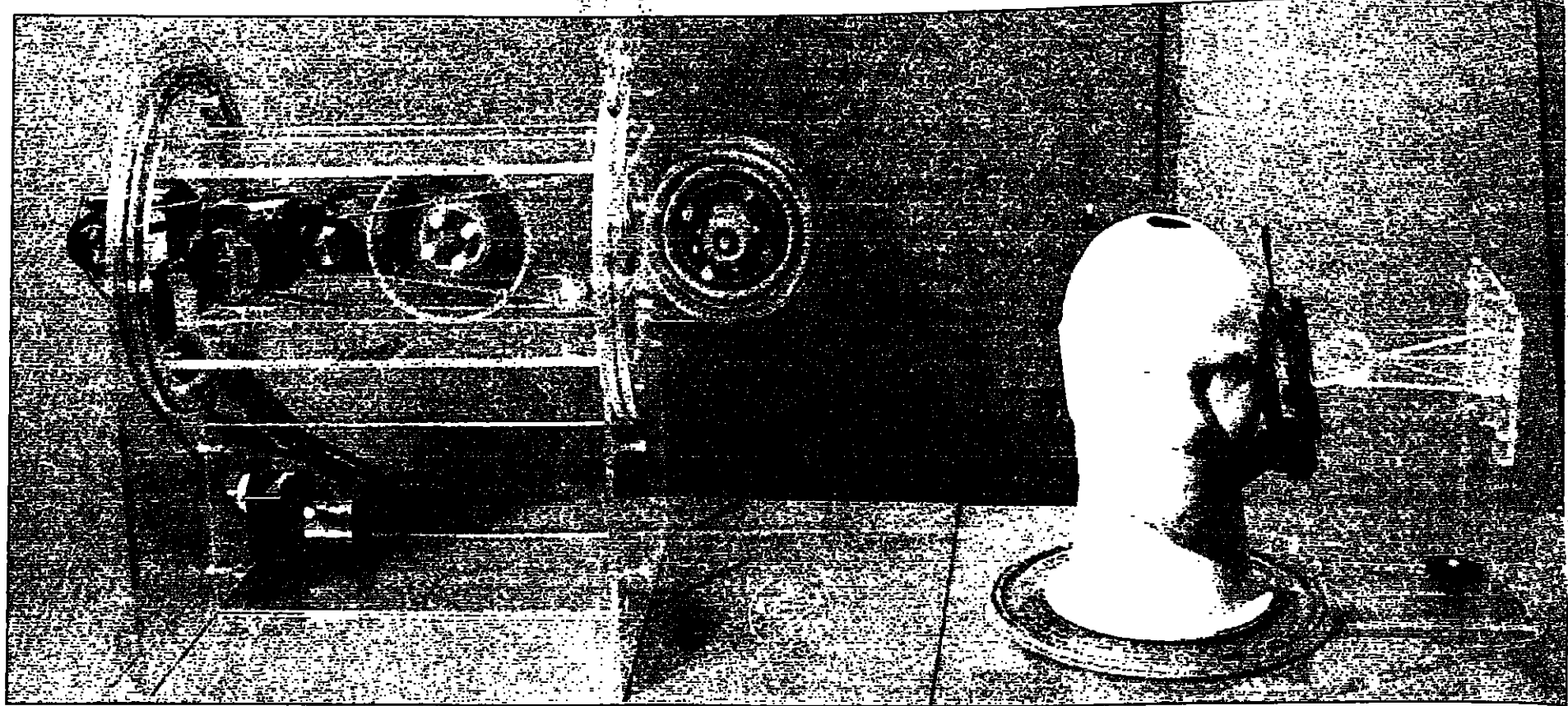
OFFICIAL: MOBILE PHONES SCRAMBLE YOUR BRAINS

Radiation zaps your nervous system says new Government study

Critics have blamed mobile phones for stress and cancer
Scientists allay memory loss fears but want more research on brain 'hot spot', reports Nigel Hawkes

MOBILE telephones do not damage memory, although they do have one unexpected effect: quicker reaction times. This could be caused by localised heating in one part of the brain and needs further investigation, according to a study ordered by the Government in response to fears about the safety of mobile phones. If the heating is caused by microwave emissions, the study team at Bristol University said, it could have long-term health effects. This is because the body produces heat-shock proteins as a normal response to heating, and the long-term effect of such proteins in the brain is not known. Contrary to earlier press reports, the study, published in the *International Journal of Radiation Biology*, found no effect on short-term memory in 36 volunteers subjected to half-hour bursts of microwave radiation mimicking mobile telephones. The volunteers had devices simulating the microwave out-

put of mobile telephones clamped on their left ears, placing them close to the areas of the brain that control language. They were shown words and pictures on a computer screen and tested for how well they recalled them. The results show that recall was not affected by whether or not the device was turned on. Nor were any changes found in tests for spatial awareness or attention. The experiments did show a small improvement in reaction times. The words "yes" and "no" were flashed on to the screen and the volunteers had to react by pressing a matching button. When the headset was switched on and mimicking an analogue telephone, reaction times improved by 4 per cent. Although this change is small, it occurred in two groups of volunteers and is unlikely to be a chance finding. A similar trend was observed with digital signals but was not statistically significant.



A plastic head is used to show the effect of a mobile telephone on human brain tissue. The government-backed study found localised heating but the cause was not clear

Alan Preece, the project leader, said that the suspect heating was "mild" but said that further tests were required. His team has already begun testing to see if the microwave transmissions can effect blood flow and to learn more about the cause of the heating.

His suggestion of a heating effect is controversial as telephone firms say that there is insufficient microwave power from mobile telephones to pro-

duce such an effect. They say that if there is any heating, some other mechanism must be at work.

The study was funded by the Department of Health and by trustees of the United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust. It was carried out amid fears that mobile telephones may cause stress, memory loss or even cancer.

The volunteers did not know if the telephones were switched

or off, or if they were emitting analogue or digital signals. Dr Preece and colleagues speculate that the signals may be having an effect on the angular gyrus, a ridge-shaped part of the cerebral cortex of the brain which acts as an interface between the visual and speech centres and which lies under and on the same side as a mobile telephone.

"Such an effect could be consistent with mild, localised

heating or possibly a non-thermal response which is, nevertheless, power-dependent," the team concludes. The effect of the microwaves seems to be to speed the flow of electrical signals through the angular gyrus but it remains unclear why this should happen.

Although the effect is not damaging, opponents of mobile telephones are likely to use it as evidence that the phones affect the brain. If an apparently beneficial effect can exist, then a damaging one is equally possible.

Devices sold to protect mobile telephone users against microwaves offer some benefits but at the cost of worse reception, tests commissioned from the National Physical Laboratory by *New Scientist* have shown.

The laboratory tested the Microshield and Oyster Radiation Eliminator. They used two mobile telephones: a Nokia 2110 and Motorola MR30. Field strength was tested inside a head made of a human skull covered in mock flesh.

When the telephones were used with their antennae down, the Microshield cut the field strength inside the head by 34 per cent for the MR30, and 17 per cent for the Nokia, while the Oyster cut the field by 48 per cent with the Nokia, and 16 per cent with the MR30. With the antennae up, both devices were less effective and made reception worse.

The best way to limit the brain's exposure, the magazine concludes, is to use a "hands-free" set which enables the telephone to be worn on a belt. This cuts exposure to the brain by 94 per cent with no loss of reception, but other parts of the body are exposed to microwaves.

SYMPTOMS AND RESEARCH

Cancer

In 1997 researchers at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in Australia spent 18 months exposing mice to microwave radiation at the intensity and frequency emitted by digital mobile phones. Twice as many mice developed lymphomas, a cancer of the lymph system, as those not exposed. But three other teams have tried and failed to replicate the result. In the latest study, scientists at Brooks Air Force Base in Texas exposed mice genetically engineered to be susceptible to breast tumours to microwaves for 20 hours a day for 18 months, but saw no increase in cancer rates. Michael Repacholi, who is co-ordinating research for the World Health Organisation into the health effects of electromagnetic radiation, told *New Scientist* that he is reserving judgment on his study until it can be replicated. "If they don't come up with the same result, that will be a happy outcome," he said.

Heating the brain

Claims that mobile phones can heat the brain have been treated sceptically until now. Even if true, the degree of heating would be much less than that achieved by mild exercise, and unlikely to have long-term effects. More worrying would be evidence that microwaves have a subtle and previously unknown effect on cells. Today's evidence from Bristol University hints at such an effect. Research at Nottingham University, led by David de Pomerai, has shown that exposing nematode worms to microwaves produces heat-shock proteins. These are produced by cells in response to many kinds of stress in addition to heat. These experiments could not have generated sufficient heat to produce the heat-shock proteins, so Dr de Pomerai believes there may be a separate mechanism at work.

DNA damage

Henry Lai, of the University of Washington in Seattle, claimed in 1995 that rats exposed to microwaves showed breaks in their DNA of the kind caused by carcinogenic chemicals or X-rays. If so, one would expect microwaves to cause cancer if exposure lasted long enough. But two teams — in St Louis, Missouri, and Belgium — have since failed to replicate the result. The World Health Organisation is now spending \$6 million, partly funded by mobile phone firms, on an epidemiological study that will compare 3,000 brain tumour patients with 3,000 controls to see if there is any difference in their mobile phone use.

Headaches and tiredness

A study from Sweden last year showed that people who made frequent mobile phone calls were more likely to complain of headaches and tiredness. But people's expectations can colour such studies. Users in Norway, where mobile phone fears had been publicised, were twice as likely to complain than those in Sweden, where fewer such stories appeared in the media.

'Corrie' makes US debut 38 years on

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

CORONATION STREET is finally to be shown in America 38 years after the first episode was broadcast.

Television executives are confident that the regulars of the Rover's Return, who say "by 'eck", eat hotpot and drink pints of Newton and Ridley bitter, will conquer an American audience raised on more glamorous epics such as *Dallas* and *Dynasty*.

A deal was announced yesterday between Granada Media International, part of Granada Television which makes and produces *Coronation Street*, and Trio, the drama, documentaries and film, channel in the United States which is broadcast nationally on satellite and cable.

American viewers will join the show during its 1994 episodes when Tania, a barmaid at the Rover's, embarks on a torrid affair with the local romo. Des Barnes (now deceased in the soap), behind his girlfriend's back. Executives decided they could not risk going further back than this because fashions and hairstyles would have been too outdated for 1999.

A spokeswoman for Granada Media International said: "We had to find a suitable point to start where the storyline was dramatic enough to hook a new audience but where people's clothes wouldn't look too odd."

The soap, which has been running in Britain for 38 years, has been sold to more than 35 countries.

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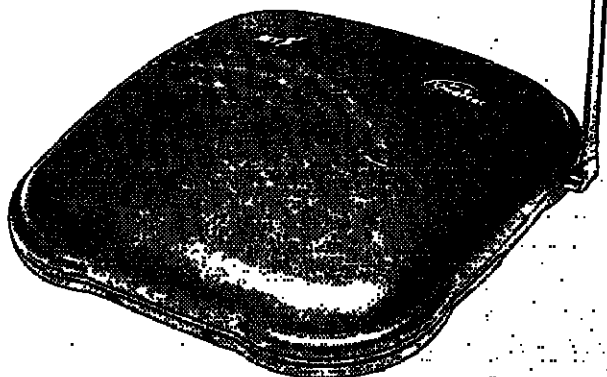
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The murder suspects — from left, Jamie Acourt, Luke Knight, David Norris, Gary Dobson and Neil Acourt — were interviewed separately

Lawrence plea fails to keep suspects off TV

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

The first interviews with the five men suspected of killing Stephen Lawrence will be broadcast tonight despite protest from the black teenager's family.

The men will break their silence on *Tonight*, a new ITV current affairs programme, in a series of "rigorous interrogations" by the journalist Martin Bashir. Last night Granada TV executives were in discussions with the Lawrence family's lawyer, Imran Khan, over allowing the boy's parents, Doreen and Neville, to see the interviews prior to broadcast.

Jeff Anderson, the Editor of *Tonight*, insisted that the programme did not provide the men — Jamie and Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris — with a platform to protest their innocence. He said: "The programme includes significant

POLICE TO PAY £1m PROTECTION BILL

The Home Secretary faced new protests over the Stephen Lawrence report yesterday after it emerged that the Metropolitan Police is footing an extra £1 million bill arising from its bungled publication (Philip Webster writes). An appendix to the report inadvertently included the names and addresses of witnesses to the teenager's murder. It was hastily withdrawn and a witness protection and relocation scheme put in place. The responsibility for the oversight was admitted by the inquiry team, although the Home Office faced strong criticism for not spotting the blunder. Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, told Jack Straw last night that a great deal of the responsibility rested with him and his ministers.

new material that may open new avenues of inquiry for the police. However, we are confident that it will not prejudice any possible future prosecution. The programme is a rigorous and detailed interrogation of the five men and in no way provides them with a platform. No areas of questioning were off limits and no payment was asked for or made."

Mr and Mrs Lawrence have declared themselves "disgusted" by ITV's decision to give the men a voice. They considered organising a campaign to boycott the programme but are understood to have decided that such a strategy could backfire by drawing more attention to it.

Much is expected of the hour-long *Tonight* show, host-

ed by Trevor McDonald, which is modelled on American television's *60 Minutes*. It was central to the network's argument that it would maintain its commitment to serious news and current affairs programming despite scrapping *News at Ten*.

Mr Bashir, who conducted the *Panorama* interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, and was accused of being overly sympathetic to the British au pair Louise Woodward when he interviewed her, is said to be "tough to the point of hostility" with the men. He insisted on interviewing them separately at a neutral location and the men were not allowed to confer with each other about questions they had been asked.

The Metropolitan Police has started legal proceedings under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act to gain access to all the tapes, which amount to several hours, whether or not they are used in the final

broadcast. None of the five has faced a full trial for the race murder. A private prosecution begun by the Lawrence family in 1995, after the Crown Prosecution Service had decided not to proceed, ended with three being acquitted at the Old Bailey after evidence was ruled inadmissible. Charges against the two others had been dropped.

Ros Howells, a friend of Mr and Mrs Lawrence, said: "These five men have had ample opportunity to say what they want to say at the inquest and at the judicial inquiry. At both they were told they were free to speak and they avoided answering the questions." Last month, the men's mothers gave an interview to John Humphrys, of Radio 4's *Today* programme, in which they protested their sons' innocence and vowed to campaign to clear their names.

TV listings, page 51

Anger at adviser's switch



The Scottish National Party accused Labour of "blurring the lines between government and party" yesterday following the appointment of a former Treasury civil servant to the Holyrood election campaign. Mike Russell, the SNP's chief executive, has demanded to know why Ed Milliband, who resigned his post as an adviser to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, last week, is now working on Labour's Scottish campaign. Mr Russell added: "If Ed Milliband did resign last week, has he been guaranteed his old job back? It appears to be a matter of convenience." A Labour spokesman said that Mr Milliband resigned so that he could work in Scotland during the campaign and would not be paid from public funds or have any involvement in Treasury business while undertaking party work. "This is entirely consistent with Cabinet Office procedures," the spokesman added.

A question of address

Lord Steel of Aikwood took time out from his party's manifesto launch to praise the ingenuity of postal staff in the Scottish Borders who had delivered a mysteriously addressed letter to his home in Selkirk. The former Liberal leader wrote yesterday to find the missive from a woman in Warwickshire on his doormat addressed to "Mr David Steel, The Labour Party, Scotland". Someone in the postal sorting office had recognised the recipient and had scribbled Lord Steel's postcode on the envelope.

Greens slip on banana

The Scottish Green Party issued its first press release of the election campaign, condemning American intransigence in the banana war and calling for consumers to boycott bananas grown by the large commercial producers until the U.S. agrees to withdraw high tariffs on imports such as Scottish cashmere. Less than an hour later, the trade war ended in an agreement. "We weren't aware that it was about to end," a party spokesman said. "However, it is good news."

'May sanity prevail'

Candidates for the Scottish parliament were urged not to follow Tony Blair's example and call each other "innuendoes", "nutters" or "crazy". Karen Prentice, of the Scottish Mental Health Association, said: "It is unacceptable for Tony Blair to talk of headbangers in the Shadow Cabinet, men in white coats, and innuendoes taking over the asylum. Our language is still riddled with derogatory terms. Perhaps devolution will pave the way for a more polite and enlightened parliament."

Quote of the day

Jim Wallace, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, launching his party's election manifesto:

"Education is the key to Scotland's future. Without high quality education Scotland will not be able to compete in a global economy. The Scottish Liberal Democrats commitment to Scotland's education system will restore us to world class levels."

AGENDA

Today: The Prime Minister, on a two-day visit to Scotland, is travelling to Lossiemouth on board Labour's battleship, Paddy Ashdown is attending a press conference in Edinburgh before going to St Andrew's with the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Jim Wallace. The SNP launches its manifesto in Edinburgh and the Conservatives open their election campaign in Edinburgh.

Stabbing accused 'played up to camera'

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A MAN celebrating a friend's stag night was stabbed almost to death by a member of a group that was being videotaped by a film crew, Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

The court was told that Paul Massey, 39, the alleged assailant, and three friends were under the influence of drink and excited by the attentions of the film makers when they attacked the party's minibus outside a nightclub, Peter Wright, for the

prosecution, said that Massey, of Salford, Manchester, smashed one of the vehicle's windows, chased it through the Manchester city centre, then stabbed 29-year-old Wayne Wisdom so badly that he needed eight litres of blood and plasma to save his life.

Massey, Gregory Hayes, 30, of Withington, Manchester; Mark Boomer, 34, of Blackley, Manchester; and Paul Flannery, 39, deny conspiracy to commit violent disorder in Manchester last July. Massey pleaded not guilty to

wounding Mr Wisdom with intent to do grievous bodily harm and Boomer denies assaulting a police officer with the intention of preventing Massey's arrest.

The jury was told that an independent film crew had been following the four accused as they drove round Manchester in an Audi and a BMW.

They used two cameras to film the group as they travelled around nightclubs behaving in a high-spirited and increasingly disorderly fashion. Mr Wright said

that they were "playing up to the camera" and "a disaster waiting to happen".

Mr Wisdom was one of a party of more than 30 people from Leeds who had travelled to Manchester for the night. After the car chase, the court was told, Mr Wisdom was seen to headbutt Massey, and Massey was then seen to lunge towards Mr Wisdom with a knife in his hand. Mr Wright said that the jury would see film footage taken by the crew during the evening. The trial continues.

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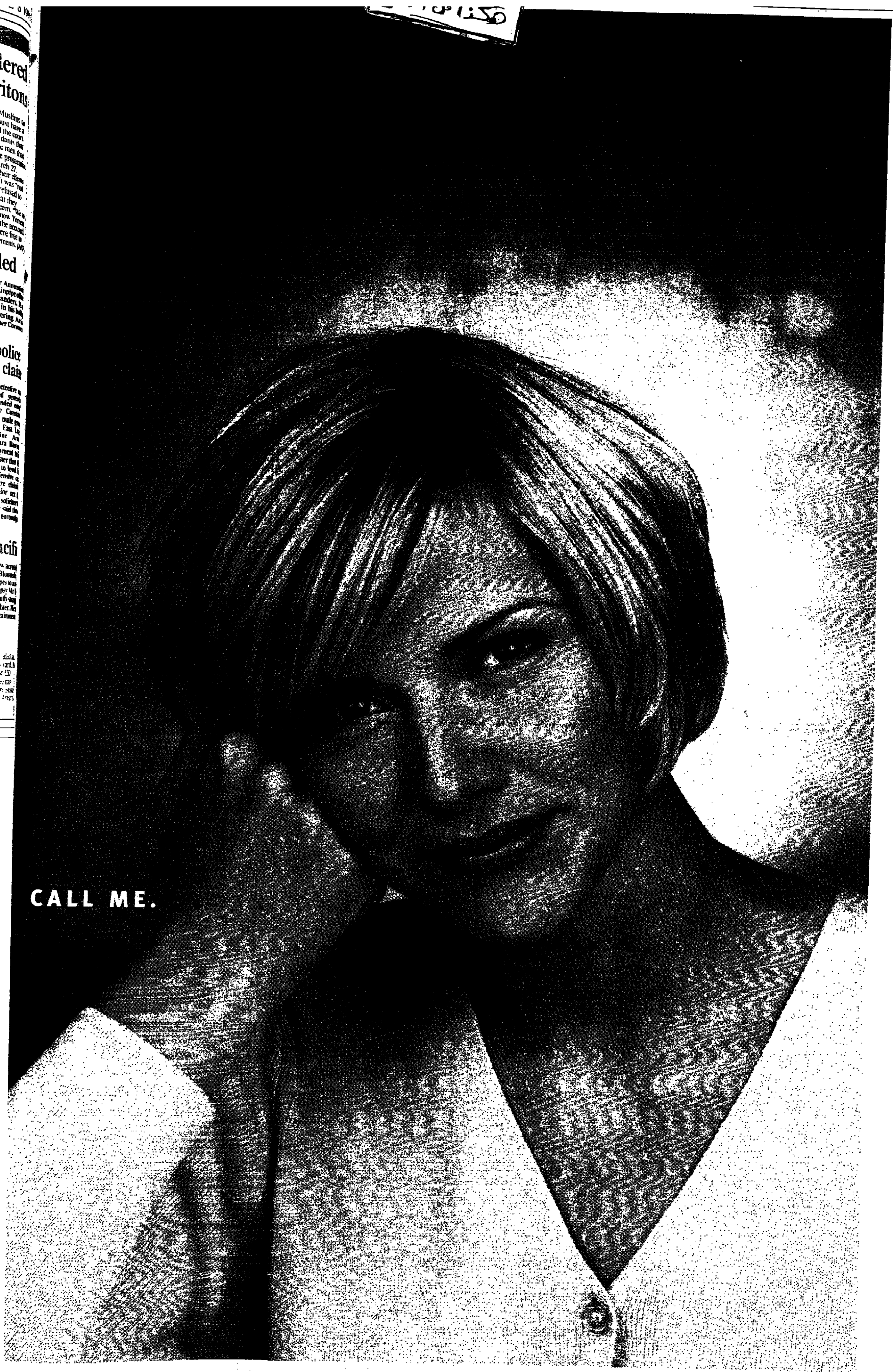
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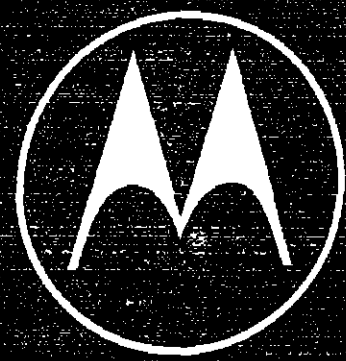
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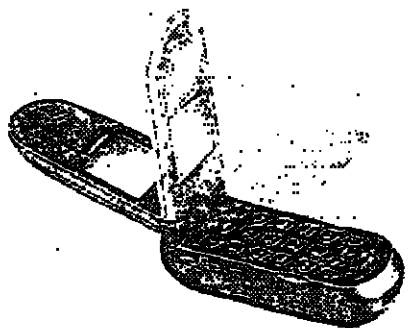
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مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Beijing smiles amid spy row

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN WASHINGTON

A CHARM offensive in the US by Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, hits its first serious obstacle yesterday, despite a vaunted breakthrough on trade, when the Energy Department abruptly announced it was stopping scientific work on computers at three nuclear weapons laboratories after allegations that China has stolen secret nuclear technology.

The espionage row is only one of several tense issues hanging over the nine-day visit by Mr Zhu, the first by a Chinese Prime Minister in 15 years. Since President Clinton's breakthrough trip to China last summer, relations have steadily deteriorated, with disputes over human rights, China's vast trade deficit and most recently the bombardment of Yugoslavia.

Following Mr Zhu's arrival in Washington yesterday, Mr Clinton delivered a conciliatory address in which he said that bringing China into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was firmly in the interests of the US.

Mr Zhu also tried to start his tour in Los Angeles on a jocular and positive note, announcing the lifting of a ban on some US agricultural products as a "breakthrough" in negotiations for Beijing to join the WTO and joking about the spying charges.

The 70-year-old Chinese Prime Minister, who will visit six American cities, told a California audience of China's plans to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the People's Republic next October with a display of the latest military technology, and drew astonished



A Chinese interpreter joins the laughter at a joke by Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Prime Minister, during a welcoming reception in Los Angeles

gasps by adding: "These weapons were developed by China itself, not stolen from the US."

Mr Zhu's wit appeared somewhat misplaced, however, when *The New York Times* reported the suspension of scientific work on computers at nuclear weapons laboratories in Los Alamos, Sandia and

Lawrence-Livermore. Thousands of scientists reliant on the computers containing the most secret files would cease normal work and instead attend training courses on computer security, officials said.

Last March Wen Ho Lee, a Taiwanese-born scientist at Los Alamos, was fired for allegedly breaching security at the laboratory after a three-year investigation by the FBI.

At a banquet, Mr Zhu dismissed the growing crop of disputes as "nothing more than a small episode in the long history of friendly relations between China and the US". To begin his tour in the right vein,

Mr Zhu announced a lifting of the ban on wheat imports from seven US states and citrus fruits from four states.

"This agreement is the most important part of China's bid to enter the WTO," Mr Zhu said, adding that he was confident that other areas of disagreement would be ironed out

to allow China into the body regulating international trade.

China has been seeking admission to the WTO for 13 years, and Mr Clinton struck a similar note of optimism about the chances of reaching an agreement, although the White House said "substantial" gaps remained.

Scholars pinpoint lost Galilee village

Jerusalem: As up to four million pilgrims prepare for a millennium visit to the Holy Land, a site has been identified close to the Sea of Galilee that will enable them to transport themselves back to the time of Jesus (Christopher Walker writes).

The *Jerusalem Post* reported that a mound 1½ miles north of the sea has been accepted "by a growing scholarly consensus" as the site of the lost village of Bethsaida.

Abraham Rabinovich, an archaeology expert, wrote: "The village was home to at least three of the 12 apostles."

Bethsaida is associated in the Gospels with Christ's healing of a blind man and the miracle of the "feeding of the multitudes". Many regard it as a more authentic site for pilgrims than the gimmicky proposal to allow them to "walk on the water" on a pier just below the surface of the Sea of Galilee at Capernaum.

Fugitive Russian tycoon 'to return'

FROM ANNA BLUNDY
IN MOSCOW

BORIS BEREZOVSKY, the fugitive Russian billionaire and former Kremlin power-broker, said yesterday that he would return to Moscow next week to see prosecutors and did not fear being detained despite an arrest warrant against him.

Mr Berezovsky, who is wanted on corruption charges, told a news conference at a Paris hotel that he blamed a warrant issued for his arrest on Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister.

He said he had no quarrel with President Yeltsin, but feared that Mr Primakov was attempting improperly to use his post

to influence Mr Yeltsin, the media and the Russian secret services.

Yuri Skuratov, the Prosecutor-General who was suspended by Mr Yeltsin last week, confirmed that warrants had been issued for Mr Berezovsky's arrest.

The billionaire was dismissed as executive secretary of the Commonwealth of Independent States last week. He said the authorities stopped his private plane from entering Russian air space, preventing him from attending the meeting.

It is widely assumed that the warrant for Mr Berezovsky's arrest, and that of Aleksandr Smolensky, creator of the bank SBS-Agro, also announced this week, is linked to the power struggle between the

Government and Mr Skuratov. Mr Smolensky is in Austria.

One of the main charges against Mr Berezovsky concerns his dealings with Aeroflot. Millions of pounds of the airline's profits are said to have been hidden in a Swiss bank account under the name of a company called Andava.

Valeri Okulov, the Director of Aeroflot and Mr Yeltsin's son-in-law, has so far co-operated with investigations into the case but it will be difficult for him to claim that he was ignorant of the disappearance of such vast sums. If Mr Okulov is implicated, the scandal will directly involve the Yeltsin family and is likely to destabilise Russia's political situation further.

Three Rwandan ex-ministers held

Arusha: Three former Rwandan government ministers implicated in the 1994 genocide of 800,000 people have been arrested exactly five years after the slaughter began, officials at the United Nations tribunal sitting in Tanzania said. The three were arrested in Cameroon. They include Jerome Bicomumpaka, the former Foreign Minister who justified the murders at the UN, and Justus Mugenzi, the former Commerce Minister, who allegedly urged Hutus in a series of radio broadcasts to "kill all the Tutsis". The third suspect is Prosper Mugiraneza, who ran Rwanda's civil service in the interim government set up in the first days of the genocide. (Reuters)

Delayed homecoming

Seoul: A South Korean soldier listed as killed in action during the Korean War has returned home after fleeing the North, the South's National Intelligence Agency said. Sohn Jae Sool, 67, who said he was captured by Chinese troops in 1950, escaped from the North last October and arrived here with his wife, daughter and two North Korean defectors through an unidentified third country. (AFP)

Borneo mob fired on

Jakarta: Thousands of Malay and Dayak villagers, demanding the release of those jailed after earlier violence against Madurese migrants, rioted when outnumbered Indonesian forces fired on them. More than a dozen people were killed in Singarawang in Indonesian Borneo. Witnesses said troops fired warning shots but the mob surged forward. In Maluku, eastern Indonesia, religious rioting flared between Christians and Muslims. (AP)

Bullets overcome sword

New York: Commuters dived for cover as police shot and wounded a man waving a samurai sword at a crowded railway station (James Bone writes). Charles Stevens, 55, who had stopped taking his medication for schizophrenia, ended a stand-off with police on the Long Island Railroad by lunging at them with a 3ft sword. Police responded by opening fire, hitting Stevens eight times. Five passengers received minor injuries in the incident.

Blast at Franco's tomb

Madrid: An explosion has damaged Franco's tomb in Spain's Valley of the Fallen, a huge mausoleum carved out of a hillside near here, a fire brigade official said. No one was hurt in the blast, which damaged the area around the altar. The Marxist guerrilla group, October First Anti-Fascist Resistance Group (Grapo), claimed responsibility for the attack. (Reuters)

Hun Sen backs down

Phnom Penh: Hun Sen, the Cambodian Prime Minister, said the country would allow foreign judges and prosecutors to take part in the trial of the Khmer Rouge leader, Ta Mok, to ensure the process meets international standards. The new policy reverses his earlier stand that a trial must be under Cambodian law even though the judicial system is not up to the task. (Reuters)

Police aim to please

New York: The Big Apple's gun-toting police will in future be yelling: "Freeze, please" (James Bone writes). Amid growing protests about police brutality, the New York Police Department has launched a politeness drive and ordered officers to carry a card reminding them to call members of the public "Mr" or "Ma'am", and to address teenagers as "young lady" or "young man".

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NATURE'S BEST
Health for Life



Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on new treatment for scarring; why the solar eclipse in August is worrying ophthalmologists; Bruce Chatwin and the truth about his fungal disease; the benefits of eating tomatoes; and research that links long-term oesophagitis and cancer

Healing the scars of war

The recent Times headline "Air raids scar city of culture on the Danube" applies not only to the damaged bridges of Novi Sad but also to the human casualties. It is easier to restore the burnt bridges and houses that have been burnt than it is to recreate the various layers — the epidermis and dermis — that form human skin.

Regrettably, many of those burnt or wounded will be scarred for life but war casualties of the future may fare better thanks to research being conducted in Britain. An application for a patent for burns treatment being processed in London may ultimately benefit — through restoration of their appearance — those who suffer burns during wartime.

A research team directed by Dr Claire Linde, working for the charity RAFT (Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust) at Mount Vernon Hospital in Middlesex, has applied for a patent for a secret remedy for hypertrophic (overgrown) scarring — the type of scarring that affects 30 per cent of adult burn victims and between 40 and 60 per cent of children who suffer similar injuries. Scarring, though, is not confined to burn damage; other causes include accidents, surgery and even skin diseases, including acne. Nearly three million people in the UK have a facial scar, and a similar number have one more than six inches long. More than two million have scars that upset them.

Once the British team has obtained the patent rights, it hopes to start on further experimental work. Within two or three years this should lead to clinical trials and, later, the introduction of modi-

fied treatment that will give victims who would otherwise have had red, raised, itchy, painful and disfiguring scars less unsightly flat white ones.

The most common cause of serious scarring is surgery; it gives rise to 37 per cent of all significant scars, with the most prevalent site being the abdomen. Most people can remember inspecting the scars of schoolmates who had returned from hospital, but the surgeon is interested, too, and is apt to exhibit his handiwork to those prepared to pause by the bedside.

The best surgeons leave the neatest scars but they may be defeated by a patient's skin type. If a patient has a tendency to have a hypertrophic scar — red and raised rather than flat and white — not much can be done about it. The injection of a corticosteroid, triamcinolone acetonide, may flatten some, while various forms of Silastic gel sheeting may make them less prominent.

A small percentage of patients have been helped by more exotic treatments. Recently a doctor in India tried injecting papaya juice into these scars. It was a small, uncontrolled trial but the juice seemed to be effective in reducing the scar in some, but not all, of the cases. The long-term effect is unknown.

There seems to be no definable genetic reason why some people develop hypertrophic scars and others do not, and in some patients only part of the scar may be hypertrophic; in a long scar there may be a comparatively scarless break in its continuity.

There is, however, another form of unattractive scarring, keloid scarring, which is genetic and affects certain races. In some races, more



Proper eye protection is essential for anyone watching the total eclipse in August. The naked eye can suffer serious damage from looking directly at the Sun

THIS year August 11 has a greater significance than simply being my grandson's birthday. It is the day when a full solar eclipse may be viewed in Cornwall, the first time in the UK for more than 70 years, and the last time for another 91 years.

The total eclipse will last only two minutes but the period just before and after total eclipse is already causing alarm among ophthalmologists. The Institute of Ophthalmology linked to Moorfields Eye Hospital, the Royal

Protect your eyes to view eclipse

National Institute for the Blind, the Royal College of Ophthalmology, the Royal Greenwich Observatory, the Department of Health and a host of other organisations are doing their best to reduce the incidence of eye damage, which seems as inevitable as burns on Guy Fawkes night.

The organisation Fight for Sight, which was launched at the

Institute of Ophthalmology, is flying over an American schoolboy as a terrible example of how sight can be lost by not taking precautions. He used a viewing device, previously recommended, to see a partial eclipse of the Sun last year in North Carolina. It gave inadequate protection and he now has a sight-threatening black scar on the retina of his left eye.

A BBC weather forecaster, also worried about eye injury, wanted to demonstrate, when we last had a partial eclipse in the UK, the damage which could be done to a sheep's eye. It was considered too gruesome to broadcast.

Over-exposure to the Sun's rays causes two types of damage: photochemical, also known as phototoxicity, and photothermal retinal

injury. Phototoxicity is the result of exposure to excessive ultraviolet light; it can be temporary. Photothermal retinal injury is the result of infra-red damage in which photo-coagulation destroys the rods and cones of the retina, leaving permanent scarring.

At the moment there is no accepted treatment. If the viewer looks straight at the Sun, damage is done to the fovea, the part of the eye that we use when recognising people, watching their lips as they talk, or when reading or driving.

than 70 per cent of those injured form keloid (from the Greek meaning "tumour-like") scars. This is a hypertrophic scar gone mad.

The keloid scar is red and raised, shiny and hard, and it grows and grows, extending beyond the original cut or puncture wound. Dr Linde knew of one case in which a young girl had her ear lobe pierced and ended up with a lump of scar tissue the size of a tennis ball. She hopes that the new Mount Vernon treatment might be extended to help keloid sufferers and wants to secure funding for this research.

● RAFT, Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 2RN. Telephone: 01923 835815. Scar Information Service, PO Box 2003, Hull, HU3 4DJ. Telephone: 0845 120022.



Aids victim: writer Bruce Chatwin

THE recent biography and revealing TV film of the writer Bruce Chatwin explored his approach to HIV and Aids, and his refusal for a long while to admit to suffering from anything worse than a mysterious Chinese fungal disease.

In fact Chatwin was not lying; he did suffer from a fungus, *Penicillium marneffii*, which was rare at the time he caught it. It was associated with South-East Asia and was only occasionally seen in Europe. Chatwin wrote about his experiences in a British clinic and there was apparently amazement when the fungus was first isolated from his skin lesions. The microbiologists, used to identifying common fungi from between cracked toes, thrush, or occasional Aspergillus from a case of farmer's lung, were astounded by what they saw

Rare fungus that caught up with Chatwin

beneath their microscope. To the question "I don't suppose that you have been haymaking in South China recently?" the very English patient of a very English clinic replied: "I was there only last week."

Like any fungal infection, *Penicillium marneffii* in an immunocompromised patient can spread from the skin. On TV an infected patch was obvious on Chatwin's face, but this can give rise to a deep systemic infection, almost impossible to eradicate in the immuno-compromised — as in his case. As with

any opportunistic fungal infection, it may penetrate the blood and be carried to other sites. The patient is likely to suffer from pneumonia, urinary tract infections and diarrhoea from gut complications. The skin lesions are white and raised, they may be papillomatous or may resemble the blistering spots of *Molluscum contagiosum*, a viral skin disease that may be spread sexually and flourishes on thin, sensitive skin, or the fine skin of children.

Penicillium marneffii has spread rapidly among HIV sufferers in South-East Asia and is commonly seen in dermatological and genito-urinary clinics, for instance, as an opportunistic infection in those patients whose resistance, and white blood count, is lowered. It has travelled a long way from South China.

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It's true, tomatoes really do you good

Simultaneous, contradictory views concerning tomatoes, one piece written in this column, and one elsewhere by a nutritionist, generated a surprising amount of correspondence from confused readers.

Rest assured, there is sound scientific evidence to support the nutritional value of tomatoes and their constituent lycopene, an antioxidant that is present in abundance. This should certainly prevent tomatoes being condemned along with caffeine and tobacco.

Lycopene is a powerful antioxidant. Oxidation can be destructive, for instance when, in the form of rust, it destroys elegant, unprotected wrought-iron gates that have stood for centuries. People are not always aware that oxidative damage can occur in the fragile, vulnerable cells of the human body as a result of the action of the oxygen in free radicals. Free radicals are highly active atoms, or groups of atoms, capable of damaging

DNA in cells and even the fat of the cell membranes.

The role of antioxidants in foods, such as those found in vitamins C and E, and polyphenols, flavonoids like lycopene and some minerals including selenium and zinc, is to counteract free radicals. Antioxidants therefore contribute to a longer, better quality of life by inhibiting the production of atheroma, the fatty substance within arteries that clog the channels, and by reducing malignancies.

Lycopene gives the colour to tomatoes, pink grapefruit, watermelon and guava. It is more readily available to the body once tomatoes have been cooked or processed. If it is true that Harold Wilson, the former Prime Minister, really did love ketchup, he certainly didn't deserve to develop cancer because, weight for weight, tomato ketchup is second only to pasta sauce as the richest source of lycopene. A glass of tomato juice contains more lycopene than a whole bowlful of

tomato soup. Alcohol encourages the absorption of some flavonoids and so it is possible that a Bloody Mary may be more nutritious than neat tomato juice.

Many antioxidants are found in fruit and vegetables and the general rule is that the brighter the colour, whether rich green, deep orange or dark red, the better they are likely to be in their cardioprotective and anti-cancer role. Research has shown that people with high levels of lycopene were only half as likely to have a coronary thrombosis as those with low levels.

Recent research in the United States shows that ten large servings a week of tomato sauce halves the incidence of cancer of the prostate. A new study financed by Heinz, which is understandably delighted by the effect of tomato sauce on the heart and prostate, is investigating the potential role of tomatoes in preventing cancers of the digestive tract and breast.

THE gardener who has indignation when he stoops to weed the border, or the older overweight patient who suffers from heartburn, with reflux of stomach acid into his throat when lying flat after a meal, should take these minor afflictions more seriously.

Recently the *New England Journal of Medicine* and the British journal *Pulse* have reported on Swedish research which showed that a person who has gastro-oesophageal reflux and heartburn once a week was seven times more likely to develop a cancer of the oesophagus (gullet) than a

Indigestion and the link to cancer

control group matched for age and other variables.

If this wasn't alarming enough for those who have to be wary of eating large meals late at night or of being too vigorous after a meal, the research uncovered a more disturbing result. Patients with "longstanding, severe symptoms" of oesophagitis were 43

times more likely to suffer from cancer of the oesophagus. Before indigestion sufferers rush to demand examinations, they should realise that the study involved only a small group of patients.

Even so, the journal suggests that those with recurrent severe symptoms deserve investigation with endoscopy and biopsy. Treatment of GORD, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, persisting despite weight loss and other conservative measures, has been immeasurably improved by the introduction of the proton pump inhibitors.



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Gordon's Man Friday goes north

English spies will find little to intrigue in the Scots elections

I rather fancy Charlie Whelan as the Daniel Defoe of his day. Gordon Brown's sometime press adviser has come to Scotland to cover the elections as a journalist and commentator. Most people suspect he may still be acting as the Chancellor's eyes and ears — a gatherer of intelligence about the state of the nation as well as a discreet propagandist for his former master.

In much the same way did Defoe travel north in 1706, a year before the Act of Union, following a Whelan-style fall from grace. The author of *Moll Flanders* and *Robinson Crusoe* had begun his career as a sort of 18th-century spin-doctor, a familiar figure in the corridors of power who incurred the displeasure of the Government by publishing a scurrilous pamphlet that leaked hostile information about establishment figures.

Defoe paid a rather stiffer price for his indiscretions than Whelan did for dishing the dirt on Peter Mandelson and Geoffrey Robinson: he was sentenced to stand in the pillory, pay a fine, and be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure in Newgate Prison. He eventually negotiated his release by cleverly suggesting a new role for himself — passing clandestine information between England and Scotland to Robert Harley, later Earl of Oxford and the leading statesman of his time.

I doubt if Mr Whelan will have as exciting a time as his predecessor. Within days of arriving, Defoe was watching the mobs storm through the streets of Edinburgh, protesting against constitutional change. "A terrible multitude came up the High Street... shouting and swearing and crying out all Scotland would stand together. No Union. No Union. English dogs and the like," he wrote. He added that he was risking his life by being there and that "a Scots rabble is the worst of its kind". Defoe, it seemed, favoured the tabloid approach to journalism.

Mr Whelan's approach is likely to be a little more restrained. For one thing, he will see no violent protests on the streets: indeed he will be lucky to find the mob stirred to any greater action than switching channels on its TV sets when it comes around to news time. The various campaigns launched this week seem likely to revolve around issues so well-rehearsed that they have long since ironed out any lingering ability to surprise or alarm. When, during yesterday's press conference, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Jim Wallace, announced that one of his party's distinctive policies would be to improve disabled access, he conceded that this might not mean "storming the barricades". A sudden image surfaced, then sadly receded, of massed wheelchairs surging through the capital.

The fact is that these Scottish elections, despite reinstating a parliament in Edinburgh and ushering in the greatest constitutional reform of the century, have not yet broken the traditional pattern

of a Westminster campaign. The Scottish National Party has staked its claim to the left-wing vote by announcing its intention to raise a penny more in tax, spending it on health, education and housing. Its leader, Alex Salmond, has predicted that "Scotland's penny" would rally support from disillusioned Labour supporters, and has issued a postcard with ten promises — similar to Tony Blair's election credit card, which carried five.

There is little here to inject real drama: it runs from spending more on schoolbooks to abolishing the tolls on the Skye Bridge. It downgrades the party's single most distinctive policy — independence — to tenth place, a sign, perhaps, of Mr Salmond's anxiety not to frighten the electorate with anything too radical.

Labour, operating a Millbank-style campaign from its Glasgow headquarters, is also anxious not to rock the boat. Its poll rating has recovered significantly in the past few weeks, and it seems likely to rely more on warning Scots about the dangers of nationalism than making extravagant promises about the powers of a new parliament. Yesterday's main revelation was that the party intends to seize the assets of drug barons, hardly the most challenging of ideas.

Only the Tories, reveling in the freedom that stems from a total power vacuum, can afford to be adventurous. They have come up with the most radical proposal so far — a commitment to remove control of schools from local authority, education departments and devolve their management to school boards. Their chances of implementing it, however, despite the opportunities offered by proportional representation, remain minimal.

It has been left to the Balkans, an area where the remit of a Scottish parliament is unlikely to run, to inject any real life into this lacklustre affair. A radio debate between the four leaders on Tuesday turned venomous when Mr Salmond proposed pulling Nato out of the Kosovo conflict and imposing an oil embargo. Donald Dewar, for Labour, accused him of advocating policies that would lead to the extermination of the Albanians in Kosovo. Listeners, polled by the radio station, expressed more passion about the refugees than they did about any Scottish issue.

These are, of course, early days, and Mr Whelan may have more to report as the battle buses parade their election messages about the country. But he is unlikely to reach any more startling conclusion than the one that Defoe reported back to Harley 293 years ago: a United Kingdom which preserved the separate identities of the Scots and the English while drawing them closer together would, he said, "preserve not destroy; secure not endanger; confirm not undermine". It was no more thrilling to read then than it is today. But it made just as much sense.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Magnus Linklater



"THESE MEDIA INSULTS PLAY RIGHT INTO MILOSEVIC'S HANDS..."

Target Milosevic

Nato leaders deserve better from their critics. But the West must escalate the war, says David Hart

A thoroughly dangerous line of argument is beginning to emerge from the fog of the Balkans war. Some, mainly conservative commentators, both here and in the United States, are arguing, directly or by implication, that Nato should not be acting against President Milosevic. Some simply support the Serbs and think that they should be allowed to bring stability to the region, however brutally. These commentators have been less active since the pictures of the hopeless refugees have been filling our television screens. Others argue that Nato will fail in its attempt to coerce Mr Milosevic and that the West's actions will lead to the demise of the world's most successful military alliance.

These critics' motives cannot be certain, and may be as stated, but it is hard not to believe that some of them may be uneasy at the prospect of centre-left politicians like Bill Clinton and Tony Blair achieving a military success.

If Nato does fail, the future of the alliance will be in doubt. But so will the system of moral values that the Western world upholds. Then these critics will say that they have been vindicated. They will not have been. Instead, they will have become the servants of a re-emergence of barbarism in Europe.

There is no difference, except of scale, between the Nazi extermination of Jews and the ethnic cleansing of the Kosovo Albanians by Mr Milosevic and his colleagues. Let the critics differentiate if they can, between the horror people felt in 1945 as the true scale and depravity of the Holocaust became clear and the horror we feel today. We witness on our screens the dead bodies of unarmed men, not members of the Kosovan Liberation Army, who have been systematically taken out of their homes and herded into fields and shot, often after their families have given money for their lives to be spared.

There is absolutely no difference in moral degradation between the actions of the murder squads organised by Mr Milosevic and those led by ?Sawoniuk and all the other Nazis and Nazi sympathisers in the Second World War. Both sought material gain from their actions, looting and stealing the property of Jews and Albanians. Both murdered unarmed civilians because of their race. Both display a kind of moral sickness that is

irredeemable. If Chamberlain and Daladier had had the courage to act against Hitler, say after Kristallnacht in 1938, many millions of Jews would have survived to live normal lives. It is wholly right that Nato's political leaders, including the Americans and Canadians, have decided at last that barbarity will not be tolerated in Europe.

As soon as the first Nato bombs fell, Mr Milosevic was bound to react. Perhaps the speed and brutality of the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo took some Nato leaders by surprise. But carping about being unprepared to succour the refugees, or about changes in Nato objectives, is very far off the mark.

Mr Milosevic may have made a significant if appalling move in Kosovo, but on the chessboard of conflict it is not the first but the last significant move that counts.

It is clear that Mr Milosevic's actions in Kosovo have changed the strategic environment so that Nato has no option now but to create a protectorate in part, or all, of Kosovo to which the displaced Albanians can, and will, return. That raises the vexed question of the use of Nato ground troops. Nato leaders are agreed that ground troops will be needed to police any settlement that is made with the Serb Government. Nato is ready with a well-prepared plan and some forces are in the area. An opposed Nato incursion into Kosovo is an entirely different matter. It would require something like 200,000 troops and involve significant casualties.

It is understandable that the Americans do not want to commit ground troops to a European war. It took Churchill almost two years and significant help from the Japanese to persuade them to join us in the war against the Nazis. The American public does not yet have the will for a fight far away from home to save people they do not know and who speak a different language. But, if Mr Milosevic cannot be

stopped by air power, Nato will either have to face defeat or ground troops will have to be deployed.

We are entering the most dangerous moments of this conflict so far. In the ensuing days the will and courage of Nato's political leaders will be tested, as it has never been tested before. Mr Milosevic has already offered a tactical "ceasefire" this week and he will go on making offers designed to split the alliance. He may well even offer to accept Nato demands. But his record as a keeper of promises is not good. Even so, there will be intense pressure on Nato leaders to agree to a settlement, even if it is an unsatisfactory one.

Mr Milosevic is so steeped in blood that a negotiated settlement is now no longer tenable, unless he surrenders himself and his henchmen as part of the deal. That is a most unlikely outcome. Any conclusion to hostilities that leaves Mr Milosevic where he is, and his murder squads in tact, will come to be seen by the Western press and all sensible people as a defeat for Nato. The West has no option. It must escalate the conflict well beyond Mr Milosevic's expectations and calculations. He knows that Western leaders are civilised and do not like conflict. He has been banking on just that. It must be a fundamental figure in his calculations. The destruction of the Milosevic leadership must now become the principle objective of Nato military action. Nato must attack Mr Milosevic's political infrastructure, his colleagues and the man himself. It is too late for threats of improbable arrests, lengthy arguments in The Hague at war-crimes trials and life imprisonment. Civilised and satisfying though that would be, and despite the Lockerbie suspects' incarceration, it will not happen to Mr Milosevic.

No more midnight attacks by cruise missiles against Defence and Interior Ministry facilities. The attacks should be timed to coincide

with the maximum occupation of such buildings. The thugs who have organised the ethnic cleansing must be targets, not just their buildings.

There are those who argue that air power alone cannot force Mr Milosevic to comply with Nato. Certainly, there are not many precedents to gainsay them. Air power is crucially dependent on what or who is targeted, and how effectively. Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya shut down his state-sponsored terrorism after the Americans almost managed to kill him by aerial bombardment. Technology has advanced greatly since then. Even in the past five years there have been spectacular advances in accuracy and capability. It would be unwise for Mr Milosevic to think that Nato does not have the means to destroy him, even if it is reasonable for him to have supposed that it does not have the will.

Killing innocent and unarmed Albanians in cold blood is cowardly. Those who do such things are cowards. If Mr Milosevic and his murderous colleagues see the cruise missiles and the smart bombs getting rapidly closer to their own offices, their own homes and their own persons, I would be surprised if they do not sue for peace. If they do not, the Yugoslav National Army leadership may well take over and do it for them. There are senior officers in the Yugoslav army with a sense of honour proper to military men. They cannot be comfortable with the actions of their political leadership or with the daily sight of their men, equipment and military facilities being destroyed by a largely untouchable enemy.

There are no easy choices in war and no easy ways to stop evil men from committing acts of barbarity. However distasteful it may be for civilised Western leaders to contemplate, the destruction of Mr Milosevic and his murderous colleagues would bring the conflict to a speedy end and would avoid the uncertainties and far greater bloodshed of an inevitable and protracted conflict in the Balkans. It would also put other leaders on notice that the West will not tolerate barbarity in its midst.

The author was Independent Adviser to the Secretary of State for Defence 1993-97.

Anatole Kaletsky's column appears tomorrow.

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Milosevic treats the Kosovo Albanians like Hitler treated the Jews

"The West has consistently seen air power as a kind of geopolitical one-night stand, offering gratification without commitment"

Dominick Donald

Ever since President Milosevic started his crack-down on the Kosovo Liberation Army 13 months ago, Western threats have been undermined by one refrain. "We will not send in ground troops until a settlement is agreed," chorused the foreign ministers. The tragic consequence of this policy is that ground troops will now have to be sent in, but at a time, and in circumstances, of Mr Milosevic's choosing.

Nato has, this week, at last allowed that ground forces may be committed. But only if they can be guaranteed "unopposed entry". Air power alone, it is argued, will create a "permissive environment" in Kosovo which allows Nato to police a de facto settlement.

But the proliferation of euphemisms cannot disguise the essential fallacy on which Nato policy still rests. You cannot police a

settlement unless you show the resolution necessary to enforce one. The West's readiness to use air power was supposed to show its resolve. But the West has consistently seen air power as a kind of geopolitical one-night stand, offering gratification without commitment.

The Western horror of open-ended military commitment inhibits Nato's capacity to use its military superiority to achieve its goals. Nato's principal military powers are still haunted by two previous interventions. In Somalia and Bosnia, troops committed before a deal was reached apparently had to choose between the irrelevance of waiting for the combatants to settle, or embroilment in a protracted conflict. Reason suggested that the best way to avoid another Srebrenica or Mogadishu was to refuse to commit troops until there was a settlement to police — no matter

how much any of the belligerents might beg for help. This would provide a clear mission, simple objectives and a swift withdrawal. And if the parties were reluctant to put down their arms, air power could push them to the negotiating table.

Washington's foreign policy establishment, with its gift for the revealing euphemism, coined a new phrase for this application of force from the skies which avoids any American casualties. It's called "immaculate coercion". But, like immaculate conception, this wonderful idea works only as myth.

The failure of the West to bring Serbia to heel during the Rambouillet negotiations revealed the fundamental flaw in "immaculate coercion". The Milosevics of this world will buckle only if they

believe you mean what you say. Yet deadlines were postponed and ultimatums ignored. Power is as much about political will as military means, and political will is best reflected by how much one is ready to risk: yet our leaders declared we would commit ground troops only if Mr Milosevic rolled over. By telling the Yugoslav leader, we would not risk anything substantial we showed him our will was weak.

To talk now of "unopposed entry" only invites President Milosevic to finish his programme of ethnic cleansing, secure in the knowledge that the West will not risk lives to save lives.

The current failure of Nato policy on Kosovo stems in large part from the Western political

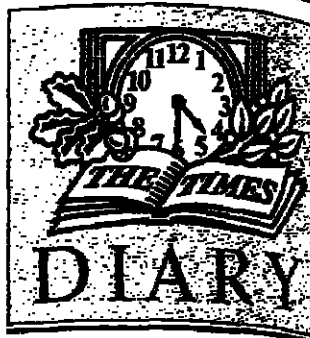
reluctance to understand that "no-casualty" intervention is a lethal fantasy. The best way to minimise risk is to maintain the initiative. But the Western refusal to deploy a ground force before a settlement handed that initiative to Mr Milosevic. It left the principal issue at stake — the Kosovan Albanians — in his unmerciful hands. And despite the disclaimers of the last week, it has long been clear that Mr Milosevic might drive them out: his ruthless conduct in Vukovar in 1991 showed how he would do when unrestrained. Now Nato will have to deploy a ground force. But the deployment will be on Mr Milosevic's terms. Who else but he will do the permitting in the "permissive environment" of which strategists dream?

A ground deployment was on the cards the moment "immaculate coercion" was launched. If Tony Blair and Bill Clinton had

thought this through, they would have set about building the political consensus for an early deployment. Then they would have been better placed to persuade Mr Milosevic to conform, and to ensure that the inevitable assault was mounted on our terms and thus with fewer casualties. Instead they indulged in the fantasy that the refusal to take risks shows strength of will. It does not. It simply increases the dangers. A ground intervention before the enemy is ready to settle can demonstrate will and shape a resolution, rather than simply execute it. Sometimes the best way to avoid danger is to confront it.

The author, a former soldier, is an academic in the Department of War Studies at King's College London.

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Paine's gain?

LORD ATTENBOROUGH'S republican campaign has received a sympathetic ear at No 10. The film director dined discreetly with Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, last Friday to discuss whether the PM would be prepared to lend indirect support to the anti-monarchy movement by unveiling a statue of Thomas Paine.

Attenborough, who plans to make a film of the 18th-century revolutionary's life featuring Daniel Day-Lewis, is the highest profile supporter of the Common Sense group. It is campaigning to have Paine's seminal role in the American and French Revolutions recognised in Britain by unveiling the statue on the day the last hereditary peer leaves the House of Lords.

IF BETTE DAVIS had been a little more pleasant in 1955 on the set of *The Virgin Queen*, Joan Collins (left) might have become a very different actress. "I was 19, working with Bette (right)," says the star of *The Bitch*. "She was so horrible that I said to myself, 'if ever I get to be a star, I am going to be as supportive as possible to new actors'."



■ KEN LIVINGSTONE owes his life to Dr Strangelove. The Labour MP, who as the former GLC leader declared London a nuclear-free zone, has disclosed that a doctor on a French nuclear test site in Africa saved his life.

While on holiday from his day job as a lab technician, Livingstone stumbled into the weapons facility while travelling across the Sahara in 1966. "I had terrible dysentery, had lost the use of both my legs and was clearly dying," he recalls.

"The nearest town was more than 500 miles away. In the middle of the desert, there was a barbed wire fence and a door with a bell which we rang. A Jeep drove over, a French doctor was summoned and my life was saved."

THAT pretty, albeit politically aware, boy of Britpop, Damon Albarn, wants to become Björk's soulmate. The lead singer of Blur, who owns a Reykjavik pad, has applied for Icelandic citizenship. "I feel uncomfortable in England. Iceland is a place I feel a kindred spirit with, and it's a way to stick two fingers up at the English Establishment."

WHEN I knock into Benny Anderson and Björn Ulvæus, the crooners who formed the middle letters of Abba, at the *Mamma Mia!* premiere party, they tell me a comeback is unlikely. "Look at us. We are too old to play the part." I demur from repeating their comments about how time has treated Frida and Agnetha.

"A RETURN TO KITSCH 'N' SINK DRAMA!"

PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE MAMMA MIA!



VICTORIA WOOD is to bail out David Blunkett. She expects to raise £15,000 in one night by performing a rare double act with Geoffrey Durham, her magician husband, for her child's school.

■ DOMINICK DUNNE, the American man of letters, claims he could have stymied the Lewinsky palaver if only he had believed the affair was possible. In the forthcoming *Vanity Fair*, he says he kept abreast of Linda Tripp's taping through a literary agent friend.

Before the messy business blew up, Dunne bumped into Vernon Jordan, President Clinton's golf buddy and legal minder, in a New York restaurant in 1997. "I decided to warn him that an intern of the President's was being taped."

"But the story suddenly seemed absurd. I thought that no one could be such a goddamned fool as to have an affair with a twenty-something in the Oval Office. So I simply mumbled 'Give my best to the President.'"

EDWARD WELSH



TO WILL THE END

Nato politicians must will the means for victory

Two weeks into the air war, Slobodan Milosevic at last begins to look like the loser that he must, at whatever cost, be eventually proved to be. The Serbian leader cannot have expected Nato to do other than kick away his unilateral ceasefire — a temporary and tactical ceasefire that has stopped neither attacks on Nato aircraft nor fresh atrocities against Kosovans. Its main purpose was probably to provide political camouflage for standing down his armour in Kosovo before Nato destroys it, as it has finally begun to do. He may even extend the tactic, since Nato assaults on his ground forces in Kosovo will be more devastating once the American Apache attack helicopters and multiple launch rocket systems are deployed. Whether or not he does so, this supposed ceasefire is an irrelevance.

Kosovo's Albanians continue to endure a living hell; but a massive allied relief operation is beginning to improve conditions for the hundreds of thousands of deportees forced into Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia. That operation must include proper coverage of the administrative, social and logistical costs incurred by these governments and their people; and broad economic support for them and for other countries in the region, such as Bulgaria, which face extensive economic damage as a result of a conflict that is not of their making.

The agony of the Kosovans has appalled Western public opinion, hardening their support for Nato. It has begun to convince even the most pacific and the most sceptical that this evil, unparalleled in postwar Europe, cannot stand — and that unflinching generous humanitarian relief, while essential and urgent, is a palliative rather than the solution that must be pursued.

That solution is their return, in safety, to rebuild their shattered lives; anything else would be a defeat for Nato and for humanity. There can be no peace that accepts the "facts on the ground" that Mr Milosevic has, in a calculated challenge, created. And there would in fact be no peace on those abject terms; for if the neighbouring countries had permanently to absorb most of the Kosovan refugees, Mr Milosevic would then have succeeded in destabilising the entire region.

Hard evidence accumulates that the atrocities in Kosovo are premeditated war crimes, that the methodical elimination of the Kosovan Albanians has been in preparation for months. The CIA was aware as early as last autumn of a plan, codenamed Operation Horseshoe, to kill or drive them out over several months. A village a day was the rate that Mr Milosevic calculated the West would wring its hands over without acting. In Pristina, public records have been combed to identify precisely which homes, shops and businesses were Albanian-owned; Serb police and paramilitaries have emptied towns and villages neighbourhood by neighbourhood in a pattern that has been as unvaried as it has been ruthless.

The packed trains, the snipers picking off those who strayed out of line on the forced marches to the borders: every detail points to the existence of a detailed blueprint, without which so many could not have been murdered or driven into exile within a fortnight. In this context, yesterday's reported sealing of the frontiers by Serb forces is a sinister development; there is no such thing as safety in Kosovo for a people marked for destruction solely because of their racial identity.

This, then, is a war that must be won — and must be seen to be won. Convinced of this, Western publics await, with mounting

impatience, a clearer articulation of what "winning" would look like, and how Nato proposes to get there.

On "winning", Nato's reiterated insistence that Mr Milosevic must accept "a political settlement based on the Rambouillet peace agreement" rings hollow. Even with extensive self-government, it left Belgrade in ultimate authority over Kosovo and gave it two years to withdraw its troops and paramilitary forces. Rambouillet is dead. That leaves only partition, or an international protectorate which Nato would have to police for years to come.

Partition may be Mr Milosevic's planned fallback. But it cannot be remotely on his terms. The only partition that could, after such brutality, be contemplated would create small enclaves around particularly "historic" Serb sites, with the rest of the province under the full control of the Kosovan Albanian majority. Even then, whatever moral sense such a settlement might make, it would most likely just set the stage for the next conflict.

A protectorate makes more sense. It would ultimately lead either to a Yugoslav confederation under a new constitutional settlement, or to independence. The choice would be Serbia's: if the Milosevic police state stays in power, independence would be the consequence. If his regime were replaced by a democratic Government committed, like that of the republic of Montenegro, to intercommunal tolerance, a confederation could just conceivably be accepted by the traumatised Kosovans; that would create the best conditions for durable political stability and the massive reconstruction that will be required.

But first Mr Milosevic must be defeated. Nato leaders still insist that this can be achieved by air power alone. They are not believed, either by their own publics or by Belgrade. It is time that they answered the question: what happens after the bombing? For now, the Alliance's priority is to hammer Yugoslavia's military infrastructure and the fighting strength and morale of its forces in Kosovo. But sooner rather than later, airstrikes will have achieved all that they can, short of destroying what is left of the modern Yugoslav state. These airstrikes may or may not succeed in creating the "permissive environment" which would enable people to start returning home under Nato protection. Even under the best scenario, Nato troops will require much heavier armoury than was envisaged at the time of Rambouillet. It is more likely that they will have to contend with armed Serb resistance, organised or "freelance".

There is no predicting if, or when, Mr Milosevic will admit defeat. There must be no question of a gap of weeks or months before Nato is ready to move in its troops. Nato started this campaign on the wrong foot; it must be adequately prepared for the finish, and be seen to be so.

Public support for committing troops, to a ground war if need be, is growing, with a majority now in favour even in the United States. The barbarity in Kosovo has seen to that. Troops can be swiftly deployed; but their equipment needs to be seaborne in the very near future. The Pentagon's announcement that 2,600 troops, equipped with main battle tanks and armoured vehicles, will move to Albania as "force protection" for the Apache helicopters, could be the preliminary moves in the direction to which the logic of this war inexorably points. There is no gain in politicians continuing to pretend that they are the only people who have neither given, nor are prepared to give, the proper thought to the Nato endgame.

YELLOW AND BENT

The EU's contorted banana regime must now be abandoned

For the fifth time in a mere six years an international trade panel has investigated the methods by which the European Union regulates the imports of bananas and found them wanting. On every previous occasion the EU has fiddled at the edges of its rules and avoided the substantive issue. As a result the EU and an increasingly frustrated United States have found themselves on the brink of a serious trade conflict. The decision announced by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) yesterday represents the EU's last chance to reach an amicable settlement. If it does not, then nearly £120 million of retaliatory American sanctions will be imposed shortly, with a devastating impact on the Scottish cashmere industry among others.

The WTO arbitrators were required to pronounce on whether the EU banana regime applies quotas and tariffs to certain countries in a discriminatory fashion. It is not difficult to sympathise with the logic that led them to conclude that the present EU banana system is indefensible. The EU divides banana producers into three different sections: those within the EU itself, those from 12 specific African, Caribbean and Pacific nations; and others from those regions plus the so-called "dollar banana" suppliers from Latin America. The first two quotas are based on the highest previous levels of sales and are thus very charitable. The final quota is set deliberately low and, once exceeded, invokes utterly punitive additional tariffs.

Nor can this be defended as a necessary means of preserving plucky, poor, former colonies from heartless American-owned multinational corporations. The primary

cost of the current banana rules falls upon the hapless EU consumer. A modest £100 million is returned to a favoured few developing countries. Among those Latin American states hit hard by the EU's regulations are Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua: these are impoverished nations at the best of times and in dire straits after the damage inflicted by Hurricane Mitch six months ago. The complicated EU rules for allocating quotas within quotas has also tended to favour the relatively rich over their often poorer neighbours.

The broader macroeconomic effect is even more undesirable. The EU manages to distort the world banana trade in a manner that leaves producer nations at no net financial advantage. The consequence of deliberate delay in Brussels over the past six years is that a start has scarcely been made in encouraging those changes among the banana exporters of the West Indies — such as the consolidation of small plantations — that would reduce their costs and enhance their competitive position. The essential task of encouraging much-needed economic diversification in these countries has been similarly neglected.

The EU should introduce a non-discriminatory quota and tariff system or, better still, abolish quotas and tariffs completely. Sir Leon Brittan, the acting EU Commissioner concerned, promised yesterday to abide by the WTO decision but did not rule out continuing this battle. That decision will be delegated to EU members. They would be extremely unwise to persist in a struggle that is not in the interests of their consumers, or of international commerce, or even of the banana growers themselves.

Milosevic in pursuit of his 'final solution' in Kosovo

From Sir Reginald Hibbert

Sir, The idea of driving all the Albanians out of Kosovo has been canvassed sporadically in Serb nationalist theorising ever since the province was allocated to Serbia by the then great powers in 1912-13.

Governments in Belgrade have tried fairly consistently to make Albanians leave. They have had some success; but the Albanian population has multiplied and the Serb population declined as Serb families preferred not to stay in that relatively neglected, underdeveloped and overwhelmingly Albanian region.

President Milosevic and his Government are the first to try to put the theoretical final solution into practice. It is a final solution without gas chambers. There is plenty of killing, but perhaps not enough as yet to earn the name of holocaust in public estimation.

The cause of this final solution is not the bombing but the assessment made in Belgrade that the Contact Group plan put forward at Rambouillet implied that Kosovo would slip out of Serbian control in the next few years and that the ruin of the Greater Serbia project would be complete. The only way to prevent Kosovo becoming autonomous was to drive out the population which would exercise autonomy.

Those who flinch from Nato's action, or speculate about a negotiated endgame, or weigh up the possibility of dividing Kosovo should perhaps reflect on the shame and confusion which will overtake Europe if we fail for a second time to check and reverse the carrying-out of a final solution in this century. And the Russians, with their experience of pogroms and massacres, would be wise to recognise that a truly massive pogrom is occurring in Kosovo and avoid lending support to its perpetrators.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
Y Ffordge, Penrall,
Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9JX.
April 6.

From Dr Raphael Papadopoulos

Sir, The most serious and lasting damage by the bombs and rockets is being inflicted on the international community and its collective institutions. Nato's action constitutes a clear violation of the rules of the international community and its own charter. Why

War crimes

From Mrs Irene Rosenberg

Sir, Mr Barry Baines comments (letter, April 5) that "a trail old man" has been convicted of crimes committed in 1942 and suggests that "the door be shut on the past".

Unfortunately, the past is so tightly packed with the corpses of millions of innocent men, women and children, and of many, many frail old people, that the doors just cannot be closed.

Yours faithfully,
IRENE ROSENBERG,
17 Fernhill Drive,
Redbridge, Ilford, Essex IG4 5BN.
April 7.

Fires in tunnels

From Mr Alan Smith

Sir, It is hard for me to understand why the tragic fire in the Mont Blanc tunnel (report, March 27), or that in the Channel Tunnel in 1996, should have taken several hours to subside.

A simple plug of fresh-air detergent foam, generated upwind of the seat of the fire, will rapidly extinguish it, while permitting refugees and firefighters to breathe. The fiercer the fire, the more rapidly such a plug will take effect, provided it is formed by spraying a light mesh screen, which can be rapidly erected to cover the cross-section of the tunnel.

This foam plug technique was developed at the Safety in Mines Research Establishment in the 1950s, and widely publicised in the mining industry at the time.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SMITH
(Chartered mining engineer),
63 Abbey House,
1a Abbey Road, NW8 9BX.
March 27.

Pupil selection

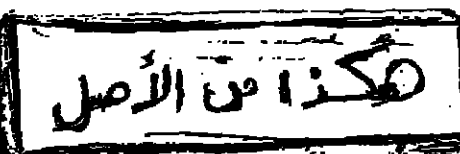
From Mr Donald S. Akroyd

Sir, Mr Edward Norman (letter, March 29) is so right in believing that selection will be distressing to the least gifted in the class who cannot become the "new elite".

It will be distressing for those in comprehensive schools to see a class-mate with four A levels proceed to Oxbridge; for those in the village team to see a friend playing in the Premier League; for a junior clerk to see a colleague rise to board level; or even for the parish priest to see a neighbouring priest elevated to a bishopric.

But then life is distressing, some are more equal than others and education must encourage the bright pupils and recognise that there will always be "also-rans".

Yours,
DONALD S. AKROYD,
The Stone Cottage, Barnwell,
Peterborough PE8 5PF.
March 29.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

will a Nato-imposed selectivity in the use of military force be better for the peace of the world than the more balanced and consensual selectivity implicit in the UN rules?

Milosevic's behaviour in Kosovo, abhorrent as it is, is not unique. "Successful" examples of ethnic cleansing in Palestine, Croatia and northern Cyprus, to name the three nearest, suggest that ethnic cleansers consider war of any kind as a golden opportunity for a rapid acceleration of the process.

What seems to be different this time is the determined effort of some Nato politicians to channel the public debate by flourishing new rules of engagement for Nato and a selective view of history.

Yours sincerely,
R. PAPADOPOULOS,
52 Asmuns Place, NW11 7XE.
April 6.

From Dr Martin Evans

Sir, I totally support the principle of Nato military intervention to stop this abhorrent "ethnic cleansing", but, as our wiser retired generals have repeatedly reminded us, it will take a land army to do it. If we did not think we could win even with a ground force we should never have started this war.

Nato's faith in bombs as a means of persuasion is alarming for its naivety and our Government's intellectual dishonesty in pretending that we can successfully prosecute this war from a safe distance insults the intelligence and courage of the British people.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN EVANS,
35 Cavendish Avenue,
Cambridge CB1 7UR.
April 6.

From Mr Ansel Harris

Sir, Almost daily, Tom Walker has reported conditions and attitudes in Belgrade under Nato's bombing. But there are no reports of protests in Belgrade against the ethnic cleansing of Kosovo. Nor, for that matter, were there during the earlier atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I do not believe, as was suggested in the BBC news this evening, that Serbians are ignorant of these crimes.

Daniel Goldhagen's monumental study *Hitler's Willing Executioners*

(Little, Brown & Co, 1996) showed how widespread within Germany was the knowledge of Hitler's genocidal policies which, in today's terminology, would be described as ethnic cleansing.

It would appear that, like the Germans, the people of Serbia are disclaiming knowledge of the crimes being committed in their name.

Yours faithfully,
ANSEL HARRIS,
35 The Priors, NW3 1BP.
leams@msn.com
April 5.

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, Slobodan Milosevic, who might otherwise have been adjudged a rather third-rate and readily forgettable political figure, seems likely to have been transformed by recent events into a national hero, whom Serbs will revere through centuries to come.

Indeed it may not be long before some enterprising Serbian impresario commissions an opera, of which Milosevic will be the hero.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
2 Pencarrow, The Avenue,
Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3AJ.
April 6.

From Mr Leon Gamsa

Sir, For the cost of a single cruise missile, how many leaflets could be dropped over Belgrade to make its citizens aware of the genocide perpetrated in their name?

Yours faithfully,
LEON GAMA,
45 Brampton Grove, NW4 4AH.
April 7.

From Mr J. C. Griffiths

Sir, As always, the Ancients have a saying for it: "When they make a desert they call it peace" (Tacitus, *Agri-cola*).

It looks as though the efforts of both sides to this conflict will leave Kosovo a region of abandoned villages and a ruined infrastructure.

Yours etc,
JOHN C. GRIFFITHS,
5 The Courtyard,
Waltham-on-the-Wolds,
Melton Mowbray, LE14 4RE.
April 6.

Judges' ruling on asylum-seekers

From Mr J. B. McGuinness

Sir, The Geneva Convention rightly lays down ground rules for the protection of asylum-seekers. However, the construction placed on the convention by the law lords by extending the concept of a "social group" to include women if their country of origin is perceived as having "institutionalised discrimination against women" (Law Report, March 26) is unwarranted and challenges the conventions regarding the relationship between the judiciary and the legislature.

Lord Hoffmann makes it clear that the delegates to the convention in 1951 were not contemplating as their intention that women should form a specified group entitling them to protection. Yet the law lords feel free to repair this omission from no other source than historical analogies and their own conscience, admirable though that is.

In extremis, judges may construct a meaning to a statute or treaty if this can be seen as demonstrating the intention of the legislating body. If the search for the purpose of the legislation could cause them to overstep their constitutional limits they step back

and leave it to the jurisdiction of Parliament.

In this case the law lords have stepped over the mark. As the final court of appeal on this matter they have created law. The only choice for the Home Secretary and Parliament is to bring in legislation reversing the judgment, which is unlikely.

Given that the Human Rights Act is currently on the statute book we face a situation of major constitutional significance. The judiciary is clearly feeling in a reforming mood and may challenge any legislation that it feels contravenes some universal human right. Parliament won the battle in the last century as to the right of judges to challenge statutes. In the next century the judiciary is clearly going to have a more powerful role.

The independence of the judiciary must be examined. The selection process will have to become more transparent and accountable. Parliament must recognise that it will have to forgo its present absolute sovereignty.

Yours,
J. B. MCGUINNESS,
22 Oswald Road,
Chorlton, Manchester M21 9LP.
April 3.

Speed-traps

From Mr Adam Ogilvie-Smith

Sir, There is no harm in publishing the locations of speed traps (report, March 24; letters, March 31 and April 7). The cameras' objective is to reduce accident rates, not to increase penalties to motorists.

My review of the Traffic Police in 1993-94, on behalf of the Home Office, revealed two key facts. First, the policy was to site cameras where there was a proven accident rate, not necessarily where speeds were highest. Second, some police forces had co-operated with the creation of "speed-trap maps": when one such city map was being made, the relevant police force alerted the map-maker to cameras he had missed — with the goal of reducing accidents at those locations, either by slowing or diverting the traffic.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM OGILVIE-SMITH,
Hyde House,
Longworth,
Oxfordshire OX13 5HH.
April 7.

Wedding gifts

From Mrs Cynthia Knowles

Sir, At their request we have given our daughter, and new son-in-law of ten days, a tandem (letters, April 2 and 5).

Yours faithfully,
CYNTHIA KNOWLES,
Square Fold,
26 White Lion Road, Amersham,
Buckinghamshire HP7 9JD.
April 6.

Marbles in the gutter

From Mr Murray Freedman

Sir, Mr Edward Wilcock's letter (March 27) about children playing "tots" (marbles) in the streets of Leeds, following your photograph (March 19), brought back many happy personal memories. One dialect word he mentioned that has persisted is "gin-nel" for alleyway, and "foreigners" to Yorkshire happily acquire its use when they settle amongst us Leodensians.

What I particularly remember as a Jewish child in the Thirties was playing "nuts" less than a mile away from where the photograph was taken at this time of the year — Passover.

Hazelnuts were used in a variety of games, the origins of which I do not know. In one, empty matzo boxes had holes of various sizes cut in them and one had to roll the nuts through the holes to gain more nuts as prizes. In another game the holes and dips between the street cobbles were utilised. Winners over the season ended up with a great stock of hazelnuts.

Alas, along with the demise of the cobbles went the games — of which the present generation of Jewish children has probably never heard.

Yours faithfully,
M. P. FREEDMAN,
29 Sandhill Crescent,
Leeds LS17 8DY.
mpfreed@infnet.co.uk
March 28.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Medical efficacy of green tea

From Dr Anne M. Birrell

Sir, May I add a footnote to your entertaining editorial on the efficacy of drinking green tea ("Hot, wet and healthy", April 1).

The anecdote about the discovery of tea as a drink by the "servant of the Chinese Emperor Shen Nung" is triply apocryphal. Shen Nung was not an historical emperor and the dates given are a traditional invention.

Shen Nung was a god whose name translates as God the Farmer. Besides being the god of agriculture, he was also the god and divine originator of medicine. His name was attached to the traditional pharmacopoeia, generally entitled the *Pen Tsao*, or herbal.

Far from being discovered and enjoyed in the 3rd millennium BC, *Tea viridis*, the tea shrub, was originally not indigenous to China but imported from India in the 6th century AD. Its link with God the Farmer, patron of medicine, is its medical efficacy, allegedly aiding drinkers as a diuretic, laxative, stimulant and cooling infusion, besides its use as an eyewash and lotion for sores. Its seeds allegedly cured coughs and tinnitus.

The Tang writer Lu Yu promoted its benefits in his book, *The Tea Classic* of AD 804, using the word *cha* for tea, whence *cuppa cha* in pidgin English.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE M. BIRRELL,
Author, Chinese Mythology — An Introduction, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993.
Clare Hall,
Herschel Road, Cambridge CB3 9AL.
April 1.

From Dr L. Fisch

Sir, Your leading article concerning the benefits of drinking tea mentioned William Gladstone: "If you are depressed it will cheer you; if you are excited, it will calm you."

A reason for the paradoxical effect of so-called psychostimulants was suggested by Dr J. Wilder in the *American Journal of Psychotherapy* (72,199, 1958) and other journals. He named this phenomenon "The law of initial values", according to which a change in any function caused by stimulation depends upon the pre-stimulus level of that function.

A commonly used stimulant, such as tea for example, has precisely the effect mentioned by Gladstone. A habitual smoker may light a cigarette to calm down, but when he or she is feeling low and depressed it may stimulate activity.

Doctors and others are puzzled by the paradoxical effect of psychostimulants (especially Ritalin, used to calm hyperactive children but which is also accepted as a stimulant). Nevertheless, Dr Wilder's important revelations seem to have disappeared into the dustbin of history.

Yours truly,
L. FISCH,
46 The Drive,
Harrow, Middlesex HA2 7EJ.
April 2.

Fired-up for speed

From Mr John Disley

Sir, Mr John Hunter, the winner of the World Coal Carrying Championships (photograph and caption, April 6) should be immediately signed up for the British Olympic team. His time of 4 minutes 27 seconds for the mile is astounding. It would mean that if he started at the front of next week's London Marathon he would be 200 metres ahead of the field at the mile post, with his 110lb bag of coal.

Of course, it could be that the Yorkshire timekeepers used a cuckoo-clock or that the course was measured by a car's mileometer, both notoriously inaccurate.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DISLEY
(Director),
The London Marathon Limited,
PO Box 1234, London SE1 8RZ.
April 6.

All you need to know?

From Mr Frank Horisk

Sir, In the TV listings of my local daily newspaper there appears this outline of the programme *Animal Hospital* on BBC1 on Easter Tuesday: "A kitten whose leg became trapped in its collar returns for a check-up and the vets perform an operation on a pet lizard with a swollen foot."

Does this show that John Birt's mission to explain has now been fully achieved?

Yours,
FRANK HORISK,
47 Church Street, Irvinestown,
Co Fermanagh BT94 1EJ.
April 6.

You have been warned

From Mr Michael Blakey

Sir, AA signs on a number of our local roads read: "April 10. Campaign for a Living Wage. Severe Delays Expected."

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BLAKEY,
1 Castle Farm Mews,
Castle Farm Road, Jesmond,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3RG.
April 6.

COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 6: The Hon Mrs Rhodes has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 7: The Duke of York today launched the Royal News Review on the Internet at the Costa Cafe, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
April 7: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened Alexandra House, which is the home of Age Concern Hounslow and the Brentford Community Resource Centre, 11 Albany Road, Brentford, Middlesex.

Her Royal Highness, President, subsequently visited the Imperial Cancer Research Shop at 123a King Street, Hammersmith, London.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will visit the Taithe Chersaibagh Arts Centre at Luchmaddy, North Uist, at 11.45; will visit Lochmaddy Surgery, at 1.15; will visit the Iron Age Settlement at Berpers, Isle of Lewis, at 12.55; and will join members of the Berneray Community for a reception at the Community Centre and then present the Lord of the Isles Trophy to the winning team of the Shinty Mini Festival, at 1.50.

The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman, British Overseas Trade Board, will visit Rolls-Royce, Filton, at 10.40; and will visit Hewlett-Packard, Bristol, at 12.30.

Princess Alexandra, patron, will attend a reception and luncheon to mark the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London W1, at 12.30.

Mr Peregrine Fellows

A memorial service for Mr Peregrine Fellows, will be held at the Grosvenor Gardens, on Thursday, May 6, 1999, at 11.00am.

Mr Santa Peake (von Henikstein)

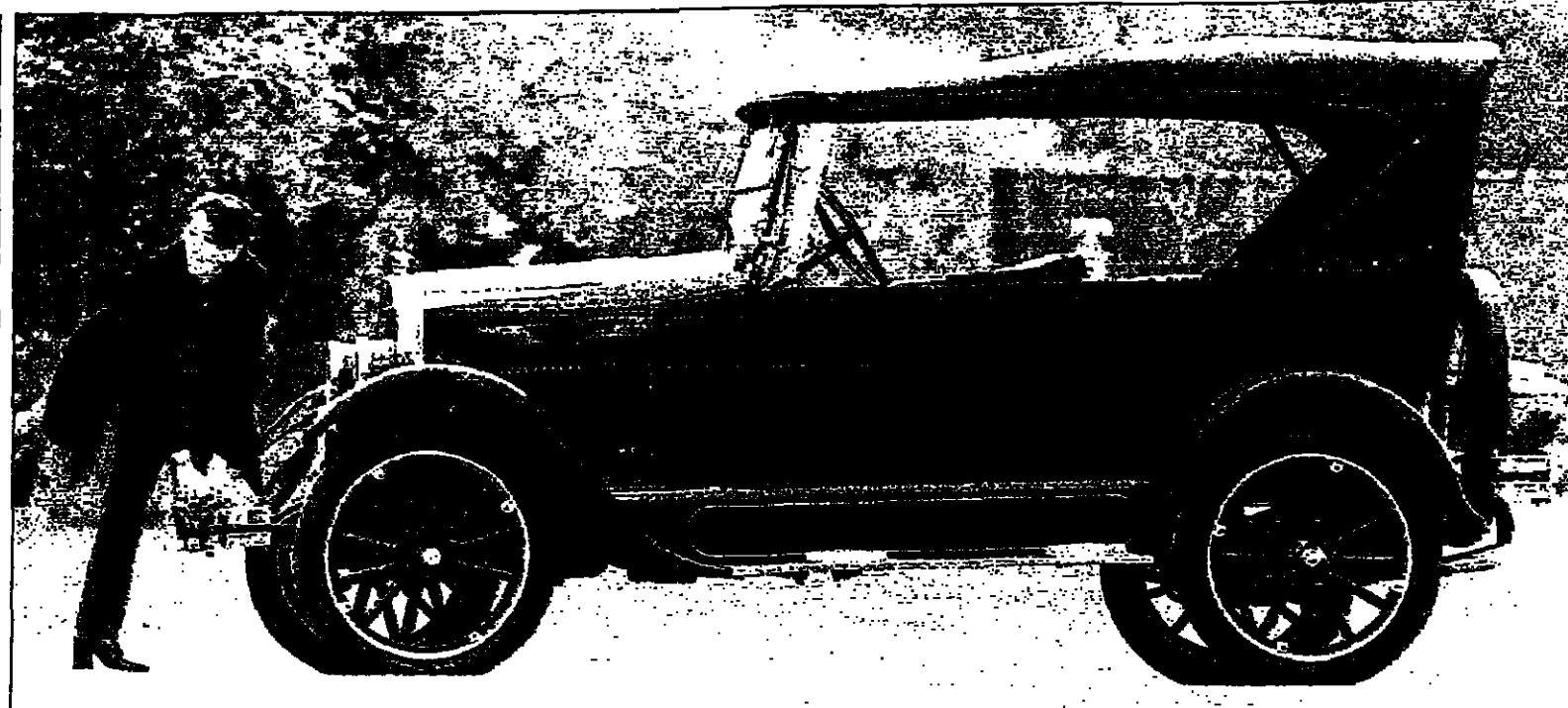
A mass in thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Santa Peake, will be held in the Chapel of The Hope Nursing Home, Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, on Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at 11.00am.

School news

Queen Margaret's School, York
Queen Margaret's School, York announces the following Scholarships for September 1999:

Academic:
Mr. Anna Dawson (King's Primary School, Thurston, Bedfordshire) and Mr. Peter Dawson (King's Primary School, Thurston, Bedfordshire) will be awarded a scholarship of £1,000 each for their studies in the following subjects: English, History, Geography, Science, and Art.

Appointments
Mr. Iain Kelly has been appointed Ambassador to Belarus in succession to Miss Jessica Pearce, and Mr. John Grant has been appointed Ambassador to Sweden from August in succession to Mr. Roger Bone. Miss Pearce and Mr. Bone will be transferring to new Diplomatic Service appointments.



This sparkling 1924 Star cabriolet, made by the Durant Motor Company of Michigan as an up-to-date rival of the Model T Ford, is expected to make £8,000 to £10,000 at an auction of vintage cars, motorcycles and motoring paraphernalia at Sotheby's Billingshurst saleroom tomorrow

Birthdays today

Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations, 61; Professor Sir John Arbutnot, Principal, Strathclyde University, 60; Mr. Tony Banks, MP, Minister of State, 56; Mr. Hywel Bennett, actor, 55; Mr. Mark Blundell, racing driver, 33; Sir Andrew Bowden, former MP, 69; Sir Graham Burton, diplomat, 58; General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, 75; Lord Grantham, 48; Air Commodore Dame Alice Lowrey, former matron-in-chief, PMRAI, 54; Mrs. Mary Moore, former Principal, St. Hilary's College, Oxford, 69; Mr. W. Garth Morrison, former Chief Scout, 56; Mr. Peter Rogers, chief executive, ITC, 55; Mr. Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, 80; Mr. Alec Stewart, cricketer, 36; Sir Thomas Thomson, former chairman, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 76; Miss Dorothy Tunstall, actress, 68; Miss Vivienne Westwood, fashion designer, 58; Baroness Young of Old Scone, 51.

Service luncheon

Somerset Light Infantry
Colonel J.L. Waddy presided at a luncheon of the Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's) held yesterday at the Mount Somerset Hotel, Taunton.

Meeting

Royal Institute of International Affairs
Sir Charles Powell was the speaker at a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs held yesterday at Chatham House, Lord Jenkin of Roding presided.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Loudon, horticulturist, Cambuslang, Strathclyde, 1783; Sir Arthur Streaton, Australian painter, Victoria, 1867; Albert I. King of the Belgians 1909-34; Mrs. J. J. King, 1875; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Chester, 1899; Mr. Pickford, silent film star, Toronto, 1893; Sonia Henie, world skating champion and film actress, Oslo, 1912.

DEATHS: El Greco, painter, Toledo, 1614; Karl von Humboldt, philosopher and educator, Tegel, Germany, 1835; Elsie Oke, pioneer of the safety lift, York, New York, 1861; Vaslav Nijinsky, ballet dancer, London, 1950; Pablo Picasso, painter, Mougins, France, 1973; Omar Nelson Bradley, American army general, New York, 1981; Isambard Kingdom Brunel, steamship Great Western sailed from Bristol on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic to New York, 1838; King Zog of Albania abdicated, 1939. The League of Nations held its final meeting, 1946. In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta was convicted for his involvement with the Mau-Mau, 1953.

Winston Churchill Fellowships

The following have been awarded Winston Churchill Fellowships for 1999. The list gives name, home town, age, occupation, place of travel and purpose:

Mr. Lynne Austin, 34, programme manager, Health Education Authority, US and Australia, Health promotion strategies for the over 50s.

Mr. Timothy Austin, 36, on Selen, 56, managing director, US, improving integrated business support for newly created businesses.

Mr. Susan Flaherty, 41, programme manager, Health Education Authority, US and Australia, Health promotion strategies for the over 50s.

Mr. Susan Flaherty, 41, programme manager, Health Education Authority, US and Australia, Health promotion strategies for the over 50s.

based addition services in multi-racial societies.

Mr. Robert Riddick, 42, assistant director, Coastal Erosion and the environment.

Mr. Jay Ruitov, 43, energy and conservation coordinator, Holland.

Mr. R. O. Brown, 43, energy and conservation coordinator, Holland.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Baillie and Miss V.J. Horvath
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of the late Mr Patrick Baillie and of Mrs Baillie, of Henfield, West Sussex, and Ginny, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Horvath, of Mistry, Wiltshire.

Mr A.J.R. Berens and Miss E.E. Holland
The engagement is announced between Archie, elder son of Mr and Mrs Henry Berens, of Bournemouth, Hampshire, and Emma, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Holland, of Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

Mr R.O. Brown and Miss L.M. Haworth
The engagement is announced between Rupert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Brown, of Hellingly, East Sussex, and Fiona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Haworth, of Waddington, Lancashire. The wedding will take place in August.

Mr D.W. Browne and Miss E.C. Storey
The engagement is announced between Darren, son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Browne, of Walsworth, Warwickshire, and Eleanor, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Storey, of Lower Beeding, West Sussex.

Mr F.W.H. Ghali and Miss L.G. Buchanan
The engagement is announced between Farid, only son of Mr and Mrs W.H.R. Ghali, of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Lorna, younger daughter of the late Mr T.O. Buchanan, and of Mrs P.M. Buchanan, of Rhu, Argyll and Bute.

Mr T.E.H. James and Miss C.D.P.G. Agnew
The engagement is announced between Tim, elder son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas James, of West Union, Peebles-shire, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Agnew, of Kingston Langley, Wiltshire, and The Hon Mrs Clare Agnew, of Fulham, London.

Mr R.W.G. Chisnam and Miss V.J.L. Shaw
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs David Chisnam, of Blackheath, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Shaw, of Edgware, Middlesex.

Mr C.J. Dutton and Miss A.J. Musson
The engagement is announced between Christopher John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Dutton, of Maidstone, Kent, and Amanda Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Musson, of Toronto, Canada.

Mr M.C.L. Parkinson and Miss C.V. McKewen
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs Parkinson, of Feltham, Surrey, and Clare, second daughter of Brigadier and Mrs John McKewen, of Cawood, North Yorkshire.

Mr A.G. Sanders and Miss V.J. Nelson
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Sanders, of Mickleover, Hampshire, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Nelson, of Old Clouston, near Stirling, North Yorkshire.

Mr M.M. Simon and Miss E.S. Crayson
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Simon, and Emma, younger daughter of Mrs Susan Crayson.

Mr W.N. Stanning and Miss D.R. Lloyd
The forthcoming marriage is announced and will take place on June 12, 1999, at St. Stephen's, Sparsholt, Winchester, between William Stanning and Denise Lloyd.

Mr R.G.S. Woods and Miss L.S.K. Maxwell
The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of the late Major Tom Woods and of Mrs Patricia Woods, of Pymington, Dorset, and Lorna, only daughter of the Hon Simon and Mrs Maxwell, of Westcott, Oxfordshire.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Richard Amys, Rector, Gravesend Holy Family W. Field (Rochester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Eastington and Fraxerton, and Standish in Haresfield and Moreton Valence in Whitminster (Gloucester).

The Rev Martin Burrell, Curate, Canterbury St Mary Bredin (Canterbury): to be Vicar, Cranbrook (same diocese).

The Rev Judith Carpenter, Curate, Warrimley, System and Bilton (Bristol): to be Vicar, Withywood (same diocese).

The Rev Stuart Dyas, Vicar, Nottingham St Jude (Southwell): to be Vicar, Long Eaton St John (Derby).

The Rev David Eady, NSM, Stratton, North Cerney, Baunton and Bagendon with special responsibility for North Cerney and Bagendon (Gloucester): to be NSM Priest-in-Charge, Swindon Uckington and Elmstone Hardwick (House for same diocese).

The Rev David Horton, Vicar, Joydens Wood St Barnabas (Rochester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Rosherville St Mark (same diocese).

The Rev Victor Howlett, Curate, Great Cornham (Bristol): to be Vicar, Wick, Weymouth and Dyrham (same diocese).

The Rev Peter Swales, Priest-in-Charge, Horsley St Clement (Derby): to be Vicar, Heckmondwike (Wakefield).

The Rev Justin Terry, Vicar, Paddington St John the Evangelist in St Michael (London): to be Vicar, Kensington St Helen in Holy Trinity (same diocese).

The Rev Andrew Tyler, Priest-in-Charge, Norwich St John the Baptist: to be Priest-in-Charge, Norwich Over-the-Water St Mary Magdalene (same diocese).

The Rev Peter Watkins, Vicar, Wolston and Church Lawford, and Rural Dean of Rugby (Coventry): to be Vicar, Farnham St Martin in the Fields (same diocese).

The Rev Brian Williams, part-time and temporary assistant chaplain, Sandwell Healthcare NHS Trust, and NSM, Lichfield St Chad (Lichfield): to be Chaplain, Sandwell Healthcare NHS Trust, to continue as NSM, Lichfield St Chad (same diocese).

The Rev Richard Williams, Vicar, Alverton (Coventry): to be Rural Dean of Fosse (same diocese).

The Rev David Willmott, Assistant Chaplain, HMP Woodway Scrubs (London) retired January 1999.

The Rev Alan Torry, Vicar, Culham and Marazion (Tisbury) retired January 25.

The Rev Michael Waters, NSM Priest-in-Charge, Eton in Dalton Holme (York) retired March 14.

BMDs: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

MELER - On 3rd April 1999 to Sarah and David, a son, Thomas Peter.

SIMPSON - On March 30th 1999, to Clare and Ian, a daughter, Annabel Marina.

SOUTH - On 29th March 1999, to Nicola and Ian, a son, Oliver Thomas.

TARRANT - On 16th March 1999, to Robert and Susan, a son, Christopher Stringer.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES
MATTINGSON-HORNBROOK - Guthrie Dorothy, now resident in Cornwall celebrate 60 years of marriage today.

HAWKINS - On 2nd April 1999, to David and Tania, a daughter, Claudia Grace.

HELM/POWELL - On March 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Caroline and Simon, a son, Sebastian, a brother for Humphrey.

KEPNER - On 27th March at Gloucestershire Hospital in Singapore, to Sarah and Clive, a daughter, Cordelia Elizabeth, a sister for Frederick and Emily.

KING - On March 20th 1999 to Caroline (nee Searle) and Clive, a daughter, Phoebe Rose, a sister for Ben and Lucy.

McCOMBICK - On April 2nd 1999, to Michael and Catherine, a daughter, Molly Katherine, a sister for Cecilia.

DEATHS

BARCLAY - Ivor of Chingford, on April 1st, 1999, passed away peacefully in hospital.

BOYD - John Malcolm on April 2nd aged 84, much loved husband of Cile and father of Nicholas.

DAY - R. Anne (nee Arnold) on April 2nd aged 89, much loved wife of the late Geoffrey M. Day of Maidstone, Kent.

BRUN - Lt-Col. Ronald on April 2nd aged 84, much loved husband of the late Christine (Whitely).

BIRCHENROUGH - On 4th April, peacefully in the Conquest Hospital, Hastings, Hampshire.

BUNCH - Katherine Louise on April 4th aged 40, much loved wife of the late John Bunch, of Bournemouth, Dorset.

EVANS - On 4th April at Haslemere, Surrey, husband of the late Mrs. A.O. Evans.

GROSVILL - Anne Audrey on April 2nd aged 96, much loved wife of the late Mr. A.O. Evans.

BOURNE-BORROWES - Elizabeth Betty (nee Burgess) on April 2nd aged 90, much loved wife of the late Mr. R.N. Burton.

CROSSLEY - Anne Audrey on April 2nd aged 96, much loved wife of the late Mr. A.O. Evans.

PLACEMENTS

JOHNSTONE - Major Hubert on Monday 28th March 1999, aged 86, much loved husband of the late Mrs. Johnstone.

KELSA - Colonel John on Monday 28th March 1999, aged 86, much loved husband of the late Mrs. Kelsa.

MCMAFFRY - Joseph Noel on Monday 28th March 1999, aged 86, much loved husband of the late Mrs. McMAFFRY.

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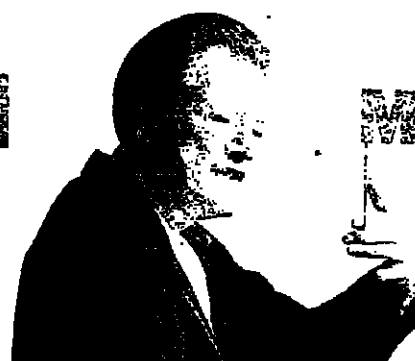
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 8 1999

Exporters baffled by banana war ruling



Barshfsky: trade test for Brussels

By CARL MORTSHED
AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

WORRIED British exporters to America were left in a state of confusion yesterday after the European Commission failed to admit defeat in its long-running banana war with the United States.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission, said that Europe reserved its right to appeal, while at the same time insisting that it would abide by World Trade Organisation rules. He said: "The unilateral US retaliation currently in place against EU exports has been and remains largely illegal."

Washington, which is claiming victory in the banana war over trade restrictions between the two continents, poured scorn on the apparent Brussels prevarication yesterday. Peter Scher, a US trade official, said: "The arbitrator's decision is final and the EU does not have the right to appeal."

A WTO arbitrator yesterday awarded \$191 million in damages to the US, and a WTO panel ruled that aspects of the EU's preferential import regime for Caribbean bananas were illegal.

EU lawyers in Brussels were last night poring over the 160-page report from the WTO panel in Geneva. The report is not being released to the public, and delay will fuel

further anxiety among embattled cashmere knitwear firms in the Scottish Borders.

Mills around Hawick used a visit by Peter Chase, economic adviser to the US Embassy in London, to call on America to remove cashmere from the potential sanctions list and so safeguard 1,000 jobs. The Borders has been hardest hit by the banana war as almost half of all European and 90 per cent of British cashmere comes from the region.

The US has seen its original target list of exports worth \$520 million cut to \$191 million. A spokesman for the US Trade Representative said a revised list of import products would be issued in a couple of days but the UK is likely to figure large as a key sup-

porter of Caribbean banana growers. The UK Department of Trade & Industry was unable yesterday to offer any reassurance to British exporters. The confusion is in part caused by the lack of any precedent. A WTO trade expert explained: "No previous dispute has ever reached this stage before of arbitration and implementation."

Led by Ambassador Charlene Barshfsky, Washington has been using the banana dispute to test Brussels' commitment to the WTO rules. Beyond the banana row, another dispute is brewing over the EU ban on imports of US hormone-treated beef.

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Business Today

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Graham Searjeant
The two faces of
capitalism
in Sunderland
page 31

STOCK MARKET INDICES
FTSE 100 5473.2 (+57.9)
Yield 4.47%
FTSE All Share 16654.58 (+74.78)
Nikkei 15875.70 (+12.21)
Dow Jones 1316.88 (+1.00)
S&P Composite 1316.88 (+1.00)

US RATE
Federal Funds 4.75% (4.75%)
Long bond 5.51% (5.51%)
Yield 5.51%

LONDON MONEY
3-month interbank 5.4% (5.4%)
Libor 117.99 (117.99)
Sterling 101.9 (101.7)

STERLING
New York 1.5974* (1.5910)
London 1.5955 (1.5889)
Frankfurt 1.4779 (1.4773)
Paris 2.3585 (2.3582)
Yen 162.24 (162.47)
S index 101.9 (101.7)

DOLLAR
London 1.0785* (1.0832)
Frankfurt 1.0823* (1.0750)
Yen 121.31* (120.60)
S index 108.9 (109.0)
Tokyo close Yen 120.82

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent 15-day (Jun) \$14.75 (\$14.35)

GOLD
London close \$280.05 (\$279.05)
denotes midday trading prices
Exchange rates Page 28

Rate hopes drive FTSE to fresh high

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HOPES that the Bank of England will again cut interest rates pushed the stock market to a second consecutive record high yesterday, despite fresh evidence that the British economy appears to be heading for a "soft landing".

Services companies reported their strongest growth levels since last September while the pace of decline in the manufacturing sector also continued to ease.

Analysts, however, insisted that the Bank of England was more likely to be swayed by earlier data showing a sharp downward revision to fourth-quarter GDP and subdued earnings growth. The continued strength of the pound is also considered likely to persuade the Bank to reduce rates by a quarter point to 5.25 per cent at the conclusion of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting today.

Optimism that the Bank would cut rates was reflected in the markets. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed up 57.9 at 5,473.2, having earlier peaked at an all-time trading high of 4,966.1.

The pound, however, took heart from the stronger than expected new data to recover some of the ground lost on Tuesday, when it fell to an 18-month low against the dollar.

Sterling climbed more than half a cent against the dollar to

close at \$1.5956. It also regained some of the overnight losses suffered against the euro, although the single currency later held firm to close at 67.66p.

European markets also enjoyed a robust start to trading, buoyed by hopes that the European Central Bank will cut European rates after its policy meeting today. Paris stocks pushed to a year high at 4,318.04 but a mixed performance on Wall Street later took a toll on some markets with shares in Frankfurt closing virtually flat.

British manufacturing output fell by 0.1 per cent between January and February leaving the annual rate of decline at 1.4 per cent compared with 0.9 per cent in the previous month. However, overall industrial production rose by 0.1 per cent over the month helped by improved utilities and mining output.

The modest improvement in the manufacturing sector's performance was also supported by a separate report from the Engineering Employers' Federation, which confirmed the pace of decline was easing. However, Alan Armistead, EEF chief economist, predicted that engineers would shed about 10 per cent of their workforce this year even if the pound began to weaken.

Employment rates in the service sector, however, have begun to grow again with the

services index climbing above the break-even level for the first time in five months. Analysts cautioned, however, that some of the sharp rise may reflect a seasonal increase in optimism and could be partially reversed in the coming months.

The return to growth has also come too late to improve overall economic performance in the first quarter of the year, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, which estimates first-quarter GDP growth at just 0.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, the World Bank yesterday cut its forecast for global growth to 1.8 per cent this year and gave warning that emerging markets were likely to suffer the brunt of the slowdown.

The Bank said in its Global Development Finance report that developing country growth would slip to just 1.5 per cent this year, compared with a previous forecast of 2.5 per cent, and was unlikely to return to trend until 2001.

The Bank added that with about half of all global growth during the past 18 months deriving from the US, world economic growth was at risk from a sharp correction on Wall Street.

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.bankofengland.co.uk



The site of the proposed Baglan Bay energy park, which Labour says is not "a ruse on the eve of the Welsh elections"

Byers approves gas station

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Government yesterday did a U-turn on its energy policy by clearing the way for a £300 million new gas-fired power station in Wales, just weeks before elections for the Welsh Assembly.

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said that the station at Baglan Bay would not be blocked by the current "stricter consent policy" on new gas-fired stations. The *de facto* moratorium was announced last October in order to create a more balanced energy market amid a crisis in the coal industry and a rush to use gas in power generation.

Mr Byers said the plans by General Electric and BP

Amoco would bring exceptional economic benefits and regeneration prospects. It has been claimed that up to 6,000 jobs will be created by the establishment of an energy park around the station with companies moving in to take cheap power.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "This is rank electioneering. Labour clearly believes the Welsh elections are worth a few closed pits in England. How many jobs will go as a result of this electoral gesture?"

CoalPn, the coal industry trade association, is to write to Mr Byers to urge him to keep the moratorium in place. It is

concerned that recent comments by Callum McCarthy and Mr Byers could result in an early end to the ban and lead to fresh uncertainty for coal producers.

The new gas station will push out about one million tonnes of coal as the market for the fuel is already sharply declining. The current coal burn in electricity generation is only about 40 million tonnes.

Peter Hain, the Welsh Office Minister, said: "This shows that the Labour Government is delivering for the people of Wales. But it is not a device or a ruse on the eve of the Welsh elections."

The Baglan Bay project, which still needs planning consents, will aim to develop 1,000 acres of industrial land. It is being backed by the Welsh Development Agency.

The power station is by far the largest to escape the moratorium. Smaller schemes with a large amount of environmentally friendly combined heat and power (CHP) have bypassed the ban. Baglan Bay's CHP element is speculative, the Government has conceded.

Other power companies are now expected to press for gas station consents.

Commentary, page 29

Winsor calls for tougher powers

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT came under pressure from his newly appointed Rail Regulator yesterday to introduce tougher regulatory powers into forthcoming legislation.

While the Deputy Prime Minister insisted that existing powers for regulators were tough enough to bring improvements on the railways, Tom Winsor, the new regulator, made it clear that he wanted more.

Making his first comments since his appointment last month, Mr Winsor, the City lawyer who takes up his role in June, admitted that he had more powers than most regulators.

However, he added: "The

powers are lacking in some other respects in terms of enforcement of franchise obligations and legislation is required to improve those powers."

Mr Winsor has, in the past, frequently criticised his predecessor for failing to make enough use of powers available under existing legislation.

Mr Prescott has as yet been unable to find Parliamentary time for legislation to give statutory backing to the new regime governing the industry. Yesterday he said that under the present regime the rules could be tightened on train companies seeking to extend their franchises.

Reed price dented by board strife

THE directors of Reed Elsevier, the international publishing and information group, are to go back to their original shortlist in the continuing eight-month search for a new chief executive (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Late on Tuesday the Anglo-Dutch group admitted that its chosen candidate had turned them down.

The embarrassing failure to find a chief executive led to a 14p fall in the shares yesterday to 533p. A boardroom row over the issue led to the immediate resignations of directors Pierre Vinken, a former co-chairman, and Loek van Vollenhoven.

Commentary, page 29
Publishing division, page 31

BT takes stake in SmarTone

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday increased its presence in the Asia-Pacific region with the £240 million purchase of a 20 per cent stake in SmarTone, Hong Kong's third-largest mobile telephone operator.

Alfred Mockert, president and chief executive of BT Worldwide, said the deal was "an avenue to expansion in the greater China marketplace".

The SmarTone purchase takes BT's investments in minority stakes in the region to nearly £1 billion. As Asia-Pacific is seen as the engine of growth in telecoms markets BT's investments there could easily match its £3.5 billion expansion in Europe, Mr Mockert said. BT also said that it

was talking to a number of partners and looking at ways of increasing its stake in Japan, the world's second-largest telecoms market.

SmarTone is third in a market of six mobile operators in Hong Kong with an 18 per cent market share and more than half a million customers. BT believes that mobile penetration in Hong Kong will grow from its present 40 per cent to 60 per cent by 2001.

In the year to June 1998 SmarTone, a Hong Kong-listed company in which the Kwok family holds a 26 per cent stake, had profits of HK\$1 billion (£80 million).

Tempos, page 30

Bluewater washes over Lakeside



Bluewater: excellent trading

BLUEWATER, the massive shopping centre that opened in Kent last month, has already proved to be a huge success — but at the apparent expense of nearby Lakeside and even London's West End (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Rowland Gee, managing director of the Moss Bros men's clothing group, said yesterday that its branches of Blazer, Cecil Gee and Savoy Taylor's Guild in Bluewater have traded very well while the equivalent three stores across the Thames in the Lakeside centre in south Essex have gone quiet.

"I was in Bluewater on Good Friday and it was heaving," he said. "I then went to Lakeside and I could have fired a cannon down the central aisle and not

hit anybody." Michael Bennett, the chairman of Oasis, the women's wear retail group, said that he already wished that his three outlets at Bluewater were larger: "Trading there is excellent."

A spokesman for Lakeside, which is ten minutes drive from Bluewater, however, countered: "We have seen no discernible effect in footfall which can be attributable to Bluewater."

Mr Gee also said that Oxford Street rents had started to fall in response to the success of Bluewater. Chris Phillips of Healey & Baker, the property agents, agreed that rents had started to ease, but added: "It's probably too early to tell what effect Bluewater will have."



Lakeside: quiet by comparison

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Put off by a bruised Reed



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The long sought after new chief executive of Reed Elsevier was, apparently, on the brink of signing his contract when he changed his mind. And who can blame him? Any reasonable chap might have had second thoughts about entering a boardroom where the atmosphere had become quite so poisonous.

The tensions were not new but had been festering for years, and they were not of the creative kind. Since Pierre Vinken and Loek van Vollenhoven have now flounced out, they have conveniently cast themselves as the villains of the piece but boards that allowed such destructive nastiness to persist must assume some joint responsibility.

It seems that the two sides of this Anglo-Dutch venture never were as one. The complicated structure of the business undoubtedly made it harder for the obstacles to harmony and international understanding to be ejected but surely the non-executive directors must have reached the pitch when they felt some action had to be taken, even if it was only their own resignation? Shareholders do not expect people such as Sir Christopher Lewinton, the TI chairman, to sit passively by while a business is threatened by fighting factions.

Yet the directors of Reed seem to have been impotent in the face

of an elderly, but very determined Dutchman, Pierre Vinken was in his late sixties when he plunked himself in the way of the plans of the then chief executive, Peter Davis.

To hear the sighs of relief emanating from Reed yesterday, one might have thought that the board had successfully fought off some young Turk instead of finally waving off a septuagenarian. That there is still the little matter of a vacant chief executive's role to be settled was almost brushed aside amidst the welcoming of a new era at the company.

Investors will want the job filled before they can contemplate joining in the celebrations. In any other company, they might now be raising their hopes to the possibility of an opportunistic bidder pouncing while the vacuum at the top remains. But the corporate structure that has dogged the business for so long also provides a degree of protection against a bidder.

Clever investment bankers ought to be able to find a way of surmounting such obstacles. For Reed Elsevier's dismal share

price performance disguises a business which is full of potential for the new millennium.

The company is at the heart of the information age. It has been investing heavily in electronic publishing. If the new management structure which comes into play next week enables concentration on the business instead of international hostilities, there might even be an enticing job for a brave chief executive.

Bay watchers see an energy precedent set

Ever since announcing in the Energy White Paper that it would be taking a strict line on agreeing to new gas-fired power stations, the Government has been at pains to say that the curb does not amount to a moratorium.

Now we can see that it actually amounts to very little. The "stricter consent policy" is clearly being applied in such a loose fashion that a coach and horses could happily canter through it — especially if elections were following not far behind. Purely by coincidence, the decision yesterday not to block the 500-megawatt station at Baglan Bay comes just days before the Government has to go into purdah over anything that might influence the Welsh and Scottish assembly elections.

The power station is by far the largest that has skipped through a non-moratorium designed to create some sort of diversity, security and sustainability in the energy market. The station's environmentally friendly credentials — the main criterion by which the Department of Trade and Industry will entertain exceptions to the rule — are not clearly laid

out. The promise that an energy park will grow up around the station and deliver up to 6,000 jobs is vague, but it should sound good to Welsh voters.

The gas station will reduce the need for about one million tonnes of coal out of an already sharply declining market. Yet the Energy White Paper's main purpose had been to level the energy market amid a dash for gas and potential crisis in the coal industry. Some said at its publication — only last October — that the paper delivered only weak proposals to balance the market. The apparent moratorium on gas-fired power stations was its most powerful tool while we await a hugely complex and lengthy reformation of the electricity trading market. But if the moratorium was a mirage, the whole thing seems a waste of time.

It may be claimed that the Bag-

lan Bay proposal offers such economic benefits and promise of regeneration that it should be allowed to fly in the face of policy. But just wait for the queue of power companies outside Stephen Byers's door claiming the same attributes. This move has created a precedent.

When interest rates are immaterial

Dewhirst is what now passes for a British textile business: it makes men's shirts in Indonesia and children's clothes in Casablanca. On the bright side, in Wales, it has what it claims is the most modern garment laundering plant in Europe, so while there is little hope for skilled machinists, there may still be hope for the washerwomen of Britain.

But Dewhirst closed six British factories last year as it took production off-shore and not even a half-point cut in interest rates today would stop this migration of manufacturing continuing. The company can only meet the de-

mands of its major customer, Marks & Spencer, by heading to the lands of cheap labour. The introduction of the minimum wage may have exacerbated the gap between the costs of having a blouse run up in Morocco or Manchester but it was already so big as to make the decision to move a no brainer.

The same reasoning will see manufacturing jobs in other sectors continue to flee. Yesterday, the Engineering Employers Federation conjured up a figure of 170,000 jobs which might vanish from the UK over the next couple of years. But despite timing the prediction in the hope of influencing the MPC, the EEF must know that the problem is beyond the reach of interest rates.

Green fingers

Philip Green is wasting little time in parcelling out Sears. The former owners repeatedly failed to sell the Freemans mail order business, succeeding only in presiding over its deterioration and shrinking worth. Mr Green had no doubt of Otto's keenness to take over the company and the price the company would pay coloured his own thinking in valuing Sears. He did not achieve the £395 million that Sir Bob Reid dreamed of but he was a happy man yesterday.

BICC's cable disposal attracts Wassall back

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

BICC yesterday announced the sale of the last of its troublesome cable businesses, immediately triggering a new takeover offer from Wassall, the industrial conglomerate.

Wassall, which already has 9.3 per cent of BICC, said last night that it was prepared to raise its offer for the company by 22 per cent, to 110p a share, but said that it would not make an official bid without the support of the BICC board.

The proposed offer values BICC at £463 million. However, Alan Jones, BICC's chief executive, rejected the revised proposal, saying that it still failed to recognise the company's value and prospects.

The announcements com-

bined to lift BICC shares 12p to 106p.

The sale of BICC's energy cables division for £275 million completes a restructuring programme that BICC hopes will restore some of its former glory. The deal takes the amount raised from the company's asset disposal programme to £386 million in the past six months and leaves Balfour Beatty, the engineering and construction group, as BICC's key profit-generator.

However, BICC gave warning that the latest sale would have a negative impact on earnings until administration costs were cut and the sale proceeds were reinvested.

Mr Jones said that, in the

meantime, funds from the disposal would be used to eliminate BICC's remaining debt of almost £200 million.

The warning prompted analysts to downgrade their 1999 pre-tax profit forecasts by about 10 per cent, to between £70 million and £72 million.

However, the stock market showed its faith in the long-term benefits of the restructuring plan, marking up BICC shares by 5p several hours before the Wassall announcement.

The process has underpinned steady recovery in BICC shares from a 12-month low of 38p in October. However, this compares with 180p last May and 449p five years

ago. Since then, profits from fibre and cables have been eroded by technological developments and oversupply, and the stock has lost its place in the FTSE 100 index.

Chris Miller, Wassall's chief executive, yesterday said: "We believe that without our interest, the BICC share price would fall substantially below its current level."

Michael Blogg, an analyst with Charterhouse Securities, said: "BICC's prospects are pretty good. There was no strategic reason to have cables and construction together, and this sale will make the group more coherent."

Tempus, page 30

Dewhirst downbeat on outlook

DEWHIRST, one of Marks & Spencer's largest suppliers of clothing and toiletries, saw its profits hit last year and was downbeat about prospects for the current half (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The dramatic drop in consumer demand in the second half of the year and a cut in the group's operating margin from 8.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent meant that although sales rose from £363.6 million to £380.2 million, pre-tax profit in the year to January 15 fell from £31.4 million to £23 million.

The company was also hit by £2.2 million costs after the closure of six factories. On earnings per share of 13.29p (16.72p) the company is paying a final dividend of 4p, giving a total of 5.45p (5.4p).

Commentary, this page

Second bid for snooker group

By DOMINIC WALSH

CUES have been drawn in the murky world of snooker halls after Waterfall Holdings, the UK's second-biggest cue-sports group, launched a hostile £41 million bid for European Leisure, the market leader.

European, which is already the subject of an agreed takeover by Allied Leisure, the Burger King restaurant and ten-pin bowling operator, immediately rejected the all-paper offer and advised its shareholders to accept the Allied deal.

Waterfall, in which European has a 24 per cent stake, is offering 203.5 of its own shares for every 100 European shares.

At Waterfall's current price of 56p, the offer values its target at 115p a share, compared with last night's 85p close. It is

also at a premium to Allied's offer, which, at its launch a month ago, was worth 99p a share, or £35.4 million.

However, European called into question the value of Waterfall's paper, claiming that there is a bid premium from its own shareholding in the company.

It also cast doubts on Waterfall's accounts, claiming that its profits had been inflated by exceptional items.

Martin Callan, Waterfall's chief executive, said that the bid, launched after the market closed last night, offered European shareholders a bigger slice of the cake, as they would emerge with 70 per cent of the combined group compared with just 52 per cent in the Allied deal.

A combined European/Waterfall would have 135 snooker and pool clubs and 60 discos and bars.

ICG gives warning on junk bonds

INTERMEDIATE Capital Group, the specialist finance house, gave warning yesterday that the use of junk bonds in unit trusts aimed at the retail market could soon change consumers (Caroline Merrell writes).

ICG, a provider of mezzanine finance for small UK business, said it is raising the concern because the structure of bonds in the UK is different to the US where the market is much more advanced.

In the event of corporate collapse in the US, holders of junk bonds had some rights to assets that could be recovered. In the UK the same rules do not apply. ICG said it has taken up the matter with the fund managers concerned.

Tempus, page 30

VISITORS
TROPICAL HOUSE
ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

VISITORS
TROPICAL HOUSE
ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

Had a lovely time, Heidi Jenkins, Kent

This place is marvellous John & Paula Bridges USA

Very interesting
An Conditioning Department, Wolfsburg Germany.



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

[illegible]

age was up 12.21 to 9.975.70.

Source: Datastream

General retail index

FISE All-share Index (rebased)

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

250	51	119	162	24	69	122	Pruski	800	85	84	105	83	62	80	105	105
1000	20	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	850	24	24	87	77	72	71	74	74
50	30	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	900	34	34	97	87	82	81	84	84
100	40	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	950	44	44	107	97	92	91	94	94
150	50	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1000	54	54	117	107	102	101	104	104
200	60	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1050	64	64	127	117	112	111	114	114
250	70	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1100	74	74	137	127	122	121	124	124
300	80	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1150	84	84	147	137	132	131	134	134
350	90	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1200	94	94	157	147	142	141	144	144
400	100	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1250	104	104	167	157	152	151	154	154
450	110	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1300	114	114	177	167	162	161	164	164
500	120	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1350	124	124	187	177	172	171	174	174
550	130	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1400	134	134	197	187	182	181	184	184
600	140	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1450	144	144	207	197	192	191	194	194
650	150	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1500	154	154	217	207	202	201	204	204
700	160	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1550	164	164	227	217	212	211	214	214
750	170	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1600	174	174	237	227	222	221	224	224
800	180	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1650	184	184	247	237	232	231	234	234
850	190	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1700	194	194	257	247	242	241	244	244
900	200	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1750	204	204	267	257	252	251	254	254
950	210	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1800	214	214	277	267	262	261	264	264
1000	220	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1850	224	224	287	277	272	271	274	274
1050	230	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1900	234	234	297	287	282	281	284	284
1100	240	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	1950	244	244	307	297	292	291	294	294
1150	250	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	2000	254	254	317	307	302	301	304	304
1200	260	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	2050	264	264	327	317	312	311	314	314
1250	270	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	2100	274	274	337	327	322	321	324	324
1300	280	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	2150	284	284	347	337	332	331	334	334
1350	290	102	147	54	51	150	Pruski	2200	294	294	357	347	342	341	344	344
1400	300	102	147	54												

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Capitalism's two ambivalent faces



GRAHAM SEALJEANT

Barring the last-minute intervention of a good fairy, the Vaux brewery in the centre of Sunderland will close by July 2. A brewing tradition going back to 1837, maintained ever since by the Nicholson family heirs to Cuthbert Vaux, will end in chaos and the loss of 520 jobs.

Derek Foster, a prominent Sunderland-born Labour MP and Chris Mullin, one of the town's present Labour MPs, have both damned the closure as "the unacceptable face of capitalism". Understandably so. The axe will fall, in the end, because management buy-out proposals aimed at saving the brewery fell somewhere between £5 million and £20 million short of the benefits that the renamed Swallow Group reckons it can gain by selling its pubs, closing breweries and buying beer for its hotels and bars from the cheapest supplier.

The unacceptable face, though an overused phrase, still carries a wealth of meaning. It was first coined a generation ago by Sir Edward Heath, when as Prime Minister he was asked in Parliament

about the affairs of Lorrho. The sin that inspired the Prime Minister's well-turned curse was an early airing of boardroom excess. Lorrho relied on the foreign responsibilities of key directors to pay them secretly in tax havens abroad and avoid punitive tax rates then levied in the UK.

The late Tiny Rowland, presiding genius of Lorrho, had several unacceptable faces. On this occasion, capitalism and the voters eventually backed the buccaneer. After a board battle that dragged memorably through the courts and exposed a lot worse than dodgy boardroom pay, massed shareholders backed Mr Rowland. And today, neither Sir Edward nor even Messrs Foster and Mullin would support a return to 1970s tax rates.

Selling such a big chunk of manufacturing jobs for "a few pence on

the share price" as one critic put it, is still distasteful, even it seems to Swallow investors. The board under Sir Paul Nicholson, who had been managing director for 27 years and also chairman for 25, backed the buyout to save the brewery. But key institutional shareholders, such as Mercury and Hermes, put legitimate pressure on other directors to make sure that any deal produced the maximum value for shareholders.

The result is an ugly face of capitalism. But what is the unacceptable face? Is it the closure or the failures of judgment and corporate governance that led to so disorderly an end?

Two key factors underlay the Vaux drama. One is the gap that has developed on the stock market between international growth stocks and the smaller mature groups depending on the home

market. Vaux shares have lagged the FTSE 100 index by a mile over the past five years, attracting less than half the rating, in terms of price to profit, of the top 100. That has made them a lousy choice for fund managers such as Mercury and Phillips & Drew, who have chased value among solid domestic companies rather than going

for growth in multinationals. Such investors have inevitably become ever more demanding of changes to drum up "shareholder value".

The brewing industry has also been undergoing a painful revolution that few predicted correctly at the time of the brewing orders almost a decade ago. The pubs, once seen merely as the tied distribution monopoly of the brewery, became the focal point. Like hotels, they were properties that the City was happy to invest in. Deals proliferated. Nomura of Japan now owns a tenth of all UK pubs.

Breweries became unloved manufacturing plants. They now compete on price like any commodity supplier, unless they have managed to develop products that people want to buy for choice, rather than just finding them in the local tied outlet. Even beloved local brews can be produced by special-

ists. Vaux failed either to turn itself into a big growth stock or to adapt to the changing beer market. Sir Paul was not idle. He built a successful diversification into Swallow hotels, which now makes three quarters of group profit, but left the old-fashioned regional brewery with tied outlets as Vaux's cultural centre. It was also the symbol of the family tradition of public service and loyalty to all stakeholders.

Sadly, the family only owned 2 per cent, roughly one fifth of the minimum stake needed to qualify as a family business. And shareholders did nothing to blend the twin duties of the board properly.

In 1995, a management study concluded that the future lay in Swallow hotels and that the Vaux business should go. The board, whose independent directors included a brother-in-law and former senior employee, rejected

it. This failure of corporate governance has served the people of Sunderland ill. Had the Nicholsons been obliged to see the writing on the wall, they could have split the business in two or driven the brewery in a different direction.

In the end, only the emergency of a takeover approach last summer forced Sir Paul to appoint an outside chief executive who demanded the obvious though perishing in the process. City fund managers, who hate privileged family dynasties with a passion that would have suited Robespierre, dismissed a last-minute buyout led by Sir Paul's brother Frank, who ran the brewery. Its fate was sealed.

Had modern capitalism worked as in the textbook, the transition at Vaux should at least have been more civilised. That does not mean it would be comfortable. The caddy face is entrepreneurs having great ideas, expanding and creating jobs. The other, ugly but just as vital face of capitalism is market forces and efficient firms putting others out of business. It will always be so.

Reed Elsevier seeks to put its troubles firmly in the past

Latest board split highlights longrunning problems, says Raymond Snoddy



Publishing division: Reed Elsevier board members in 1994. From left, Nigel Stapleton, Ian Irvine, Loek van Vollenhoven and Pierre Vinken. Three have gone, along with Sir Peter Davis, top right. Morris Tabakshlat, bottom right, joins next week



Just when it seemed that things couldn't get any worse at Reed Elsevier, the international information and publishing group, the board is in turmoil and, most serious of all, the hunt for a new chief executive has stalled after a global search that has already lasted eight months. This comes on top of last year's scandal at Reed Travel Business, when the company had to make provisions of £200 million to compensate advertisers for inflated circulation claims for directories. The company has also been hit by the high cost of investing in the transition from paper to electronic publishing not to mention increasing competition in some of its key legal information markets in the US.

It was hardly surprising that the Reed International share price fell more than 4 per cent at one stage yesterday on news of the interrupted executive search. The surprise was that it did not fall even more sharply. Cynical analysts suggested yesterday that there was a floor for the share price based on the belief that if things got too bad the value could always be extracted by a takeover.

Some investors were even heard to mutter that if the un-

wieldly Anglo-Dutch management structure continued to destroy value then it might be better to admit to an honest mistake and, after six years of Reed Elsevier, reverse the process and go for a demerger.

Perversely a number of senior figures close to the company were suggesting that Tuesday's special board meeting produced some rather good news. This follows the immediate resignations of Pierre Vinken, the 71-year-old former co-chairman, and Loek van Vollenhoven, who is 68. Though the resignations were largely symbolic — the two were due to retire at next week's annual meeting —

their departure is seen as not before time. Despite his undoubted brilliance, Mr Vinken, a brain surgeon turned publisher who more than anyone was responsible for creating the modern Elsevier, has been held responsible for much of the tension at the top levels of the united company in recent years. It is believed that it was Mr Vinken, supported by his close associate Mr Van Vollenhoven, who in 1995 moved against Sir Peter Davis, now chief executive of Prudential Corporation, because he thought the British executive was getting "too big for his boots". Sir Peter resigned with a massive payoff.

Then came a falling out with Ian Irvine, the former Reed Elsevier co-chairman and nominated successor to Sir Peter. From the outside these splits have been seen as a cultural clash between the British and Dutch ways of doing business. In truth, they are generational. "Pierre and Loek were increasingly out of touch with modern publishing and modern corporate governance. Pierre thought you just put up the cover price and took in the money," one executive said yesterday. The two resigning directors were not thought to be involved in the delays over the appointment of a new chief executive.

In fact in their departing statements they cited "differences of opinion over the management of the recruitment process". This oblique statement has been interpreted to mean that, while they would have supported the appointment of the chosen candidate, believed to be Jonathan Newcomb, chairman and chief executive of Simon & Schuster, when Mr Newcomb decided not to accept the offer at the last minute this brought to the surface all the festering unhappiness that the two Dutch masters had about how the process had been handled. Mr Newcomb would certainly have been well regarded by

the City. He was seen as potentially available after losing half his empire with the sale of S&S business and educational publishing interests to Pearson.

The search is now likely to be wound backwards to the shortlist in the hope that an announcement can be made before the summer. The share price is unlikely to recover until the uncertainty has been resolved. Nigel Stapleton, Reed Elsevier co-chairman, has agreed to stay on until a new chief executive is in place. He and fellow co-chairman Hermann Bruggink said they had asked not to be considered for the job — though they may not have been encouraged to apply either.

Apart from the inevitable delay in choosing a chief executive things actually are starting to look up for Reed Elsevier. "It's really about what is happening next week, not history," a director said yesterday.

What happens next week, after Thursday's AGM, is that one of the world's top businessmen, Morris Tabakshlat, the retiring chairman of Unilever, takes over as chairman. Mr Tabakshlat will also finally take over a unitary board structure — something that was originally planned in the initial merger documents and later overturned under pressure from Vinken. In future there will be three boards — Reed, Elsevier and Reed Elsevier — but the six non-executives will be common to all and, as well as a single chairman and chief executive, there will be, in Mark Armour, a chief financial officer.

With the main businesses performing well despite all the disappointments, it may be seen in retrospect that the turnaround at Reed Elsevier began on Thursday April 15, 1999.

Aviation agreement must be on basis of reciprocity

From members of the British Cargo Airline Alliance

Sir, The message to Rodney Slater, the US Secretary for Transportation, after his recent UK visit must be clear: any form of new US-UK aviation agreement must be on a basis of reciprocity. If the UK Government is to grant traffic rights to US carriers, the US Government must be prepared to grant access to the US market.

This has been the stance of the UK Government since initial negotiations began on means of liberalising international aviation regulations. We must not now back away from the challenge of creating a level playing field for all operators. The onus lies with the UK Government to maintain their stance, and with the US

to seize the advantages offered by genuine competition.

Only through the resumption of negotiations can these issues progress and only through reciprocity can truly open skies be achieved. Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER FOYLE (British Cargo Airline Alliance), MIKE SPARHAM (British Airline Pilots' Association), RICHARD BRANSON (Virgin Atlantic), HOWARD DAVIES (British Air Transport Association), KEN SMITH (Air 2000), DANNY BERNSTEIN (Monarch), British Cargo Airline Alliance, 100 Rochester Row, London, SW1P 1JP.

Conflicting lines on tax change

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, You report ("IT experts fear Budget will spark brain drain", April 5) on the possible impact of the Budget changes to the use of so-called "personal service companies".

You explain that these changes will force highly paid freelancers (such as IT consultants) to become staff employees of the companies that they work for, instead of charging fees through tax-efficient personal service companies. You report that many IT consultants might emigrate rather than pay the extra tax. You further quote an Inland Revenue spokeswoman saying that the changes were intended to hit IT consultants, but to "stop companies

taking away the rights of workers by paying them freelance fees when they were effectively full-time employees".

It is interesting to compare this spokeswoman's statement with page 13, line 28, of the 1999 Budget Red Book, which suggests that the changes will yield £850 million for the Treasury in their first two years of operation alone.

Taking the spokeswoman's statement at face value, this particular Red Book figure is presumably a misprint. Yours faithfully, M. C. FITZPATRICK (Head of Economics, Chantrey Vellacott DFK), Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5LF.

Letters to the Business section may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5112 or by e-mail to: business@the-times.co.uk. Letters should carry a daytime telephone number.

Bad blood that can flow across borders

Detharding, the ruthless Dutch accountant who led Royal Dutch Petroleum. Thus, Royal Dutch secured a majority 60 per cent share of the oil group, a structure that remains to this day.

Since the passing of the tyrannical Detharding, Shell has been run by a committee of managing directors, a consensus management system that

has come under enormous strain over the past five years as the company found its bureaucracy unwieldy and faction-ridden.

Curiously, both Shell and Unilever reformed their management structures three years ago, both seeking to focus on product lines, thus reducing the influence of regional structures.

A continental affection for consensus is giving way to the Anglo-American obsession with bottom-line responsibility. But, whereas Unilever's efforts to streamline the sprawling multinational have been largely successful, Shell has stumbled.

Perhaps the key difference between the two is the reluctance of Shell to appoint a chief executive with ultimate responsibility. Mark Moody Stuart, head of Shell's committee of managing directors, is *primus inter pares* rather than boss. At Unilever, no one doubts the authority of Niall FitzGerald. Reed Elsevier should take note.

CARL MORTISHED

New play

YOU cannot keep a good man down. The entrepreneur behind Ionica, the mobile phone business that was one of the great corporate disasters of this decade, has quietly set up in business again.

Nigel Playford is operating out of a technology park next door to the old Ionica headquarters in Cambridge. He has set up Albera Networks, described on its nascent website as "a telecoms consulting group specialising in wireless local loops".

This was what Ionica spe-

cialised in, of course, until last year when the receivers went in just 15 months after its stock market float. Playford is reckoned to have lost almost everything in that crash.

There is not much left of his creation except for the odd rusting base station in fields here and there and some unhappy investors who wish they had never heard of Ionica. I ring to offer Playford my best wishes, but for some reason he is not returning calls.

I AM approached by Peter Warner, who reckons to be the, well, the cat's whiskers at drawing logos featuring cats. He has read the story in yesterday's Times about the group of banks and other financial services providers that want one such logo to show which of the new individual savings accounts, or Isas, meet the necessary Treasury criteria.

Warner is keen to offer his services. He studied at the Royal Academy and then drifted into depictions of things feline after a career drawing children's books — he produced about 50, "and my overdraft went up with every one". He is already responsible for



the Whiskas cat and the one on boxes of Go-Cat, this having been based on his surviving moggie Django. I wish him luck and point him in the right direction.

Handy hints

CHARLES HANDY, the management guru, will address the annual Booksellers Association conference on Monday. This shows an uncommon degree of forgiveness, because last time Handy was invited to give his views, at the 1995 meeting, he was booted.

Handy is not a great fan of the business, thinking it aloof and slow to cope with change. Last time he upset delegates by telling them the end of the

Net Book Agreement would be a good thing.

This time, according to an interview with *The Bookseller*, he will be singing the praises of on-line retailers such as Amazon.com, which should go down equally well. Publishers, he says, are "even worse" than booksellers. "They haven't a clue how to sell books other than through bookshops."

A RETIRED corporate solicitor has just completed a bust of Marie Curie to be installed at the Marie Curie Cancer Care head office in Belgrave Square at the end of this month.

Frederick Parkhouse was senior counsel for Shell for 24 years, a job whose long hours required him to abandon an earlier hobby as a sculptor. He took it up again on his retirement five years ago.

The Marie Curie request came through the encouragement of his wife, Josephine, who does work for the charity, and took three or four months to complete. I ring to congratulate Parkhouse, who turns out to be celebrating his 70th birthday yesterday.

Bank on it

GOOD news for Barclays staff, some of whom, I hear, are beginning to wonder just

what has happened to Michael O'Neill, the bank's new chief executive. He will definitely, no question of it, without fail, start on Monday — two weeks late.

The reason for his delay was that he had to tie the some things up in the States — he hadn't finished his job there," says a Barclays source. But hang on, I thought he had flu? "Er, it's a mix of lots of different things really," Barclays backtracks.

So as the saying goes, women have colds and men have flu. And high-powered American bankers have things to tie up.

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



"Bet she couldn't find a chief executive for Reed Elsevier"

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Internet offers fast route to car sales

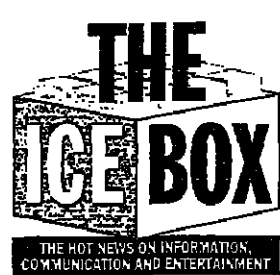
Most people find buying a car a time-consuming and frustrating experience. The two activities also generally involve dealing with people — ie, car salesmen and estate agents — who do not seem to know or care about how technology can speed up their businesses and make life easier for everyone involved.

Yet both car dealers and estate agents face a significant threat from the Internet, which is allowing a new breed of technology-savvy entrepreneurs to flourish. In the case of buying a car, the Internet is having the most profound effect where you would expect it least — in the second-hand and classic car markets. Using a service such as *autotrader.co.uk*, an offshoot of *Autotrader* magazine,

consumers can gather almost perfect information about the market for the kind of car they are searching for. *Autotrader.co.uk* will also soon face competition in the form of *Autobytel.com*, a US company that is launching a UK service at the end of this month.

Sites of this kind allow potential buyers simply to enter the make and model of car they want (say, a BMW 5 series), how much they are willing to pay, and whether they would like to buy from a dealer or a private seller. They then enter their postcode, and tell the site how far from home they are willing to travel to buy the car.

Within seconds, the potential buyer can view an exhaustive list (including photographs) of all the BMW 5 series cars for sale within a given distance



from home, including prices and detailed descriptions of each vehicle. This kind of information gives a car buyer an enormous advantage, and is, at the moment at least, completely free. If a buyer is aware of all the cars for sale in a local area, he or she is in a very strong bargaining position. By

going back to a site such as *autotrader.co.uk* every day, they can also see how long a car has been on the market. A few dealers are tackling this threat by putting up their own sites showing pictures of their cars and giving detailed descriptions of them. This will inevitably reassure buyers (after all, a garage can give details of other offers, such as warranties, etc), and is far more likely to entice someone into a showroom than a small advert on *Autotrader*'s Internet site.

The Internet is also changing the way properties for sale and rent are being offered, via sites such as *look.com* — an offshoot of *Look* magazine — which allow potential buyers to browse in the same way that car buyers can in *autotrader.co.uk*. Although

Loot's online layout is a bit confusing, it is relatively easy to browse through a sub-section (for example, houses for sale in northwest England), and then refine the search even further, for example, to look for three-bedroom houses for sale in the North West.

Loot also allows users to save a specific search and every time a new advert is placed with Loot that fits those search criteria it sends out an e-mail alerting the potential buyer.

□ Dell, the US computer manufacturer, has parted company with its advertising agency of 11 years, Moser O'Neill. The \$70 million (£43 million) contract will now be put "in review".

CHRIS AYRES

RAC's shortlist suggests sale of rescue service

By Robert Lea

DRESDNER Kleinwort Benson has whittled down potential buyers of the RAC to a shortlist of six as insiders indicate that a sale of the motoring organisation is more likely than a flotation.

The RAC, led by Sir Michael Aynsley, the new chairman, is officially sticking to its "two-track strategy" of having its adviser, DKB, and its broker, Cazenove, continuing to look at the options of whether to float or sell to a single buyer in order to get the best return for its 12,000 shareholders.

Insiders, however, are admitting that the recent sharp decline in the number of stock market flotations and the high-profile problems that surrounded the offer of William Hill, the bookmaker, indicate that a sale would not only be quicker but that it could also raise more cash.

The RAC's shareholders — the 12,000 members of the RAC gentlemen's club in London's Pall Mall from which the motoring organisation has now been split — are hoping for windfalls of about £35,000 apiece when the business eventually changes hands.

Cendant, the US group that owns Green Flag, had bid £450 million for the RAC, but

the takeover was blocked by the Department of Trade and Industry on competition grounds.

According to John Williams, of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the investment bank adviser is drawing up a shortlist that will evenly balance potential trade buyers and financial buyers.

The would-be buyers include Ford, the US motor company, and Citiven, the City venture capitalist.

RAC yesterday revealed that the costs of its reorganisation



The RAC's Pall Mall base

sent the business into the red in 1998.

Pre-tax profits on normal activities rose by 45 per cent to £24.7 million on turnover — mostly subscriptions from members — which increased by 15 per cent to £310 million.

But the business was hit by a raft of exceptional items amounting to £35.2 million, leaving the RAC with a pre-tax loss of £10.5 million for the year.

More than half the costs — £18.5 million — relate to a one-off endowment to the Pall Mall club so that it can continue to act as a lobby organisation on motoring issues. However, about a further £9 million has to be spent on advisers dealing with the reorganisation.

The RAC said that it had also made a £2.1 million provision against former members of the Pall Mall club taking legal action to get a share of the members' windfall.

The organisation said that there had been a further £3.8 million of continuing integration and start-up costs respectively from its takeover of BSM and its joint venture with Trafficmaster. There were also £1.5 million of year 2000 computer costs.



Frank Walker, Guiton chairman, issued a costs warning

Guiton profits ahead

GUITION GROUP, the Channel Islands newspaper publisher that bought the *Guernsey Evening Press* at the end of last year to go alongside its *Jersey Evening Post*, said profits were up by 10 per cent last year. It gave warning, how-

ever, that the costs of integrating the businesses would hit this year's profits. Pre-tax profits for 1998 came in at £4.3 million, and the company is raising the final dividend to 3.44p (3.13p) for a 10 per cent uplift in the total dividend to 5.64p.

Friendly Hotels books 52% rise

By Dominic Walsh

SHARES in Friendly Hotels, the midmarket hotelier, continued their recent rise, gaining almost 10 per cent on the back of strong 1998 results and robust current trading.

A combination of acquisitions and organic growth pushed profits before tax and exceptional up 52 per cent to £7.4 million from turnover 38 per cent higher at £77.8 million. Headline earnings per share reached 16.4p (11.9p) and the final dividend of 4p makes a total of 6.3p (5.9p).

Friendly's shares, which hit a low of 93p in February, gained 15p on the day to 1.38p. Like-for-like sales in the UK were up 16 per cent, with revenue per available room rising 11 per cent. In the first quarter of 1999 the trend continued, with room occupancy up two percentage points to just over 59 per cent and the average room rate rising 11 per cent.

At the start of the year Friendly acquired the European master franchise for Choice Hotels International, giving it rights to such brands as Clarion, Comfort and Quality. It also paid Choice £16.1 million for 13 owned, leased and managed hotels, taking its total to 71, of which 44 are in the UK. It also has almost 300 franchises.

Tony Potter, chief executive and acting chairman, said that, in contrast to the Gulf War, the Yugoslavian crisis was having little impact on business.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Scottish software centre for US bank

JP MORGAN, the US investment bank, is to create 300 IT jobs in Scotland with the setting-up of a software applications development centre to design and develop systems to support the bank's European financial services operations. Although a location has yet to be found the bank wants to set up the operation — in which it is to invest £7.3 million — in the centre of Glasgow. JP Morgan will be hiring highly skilled software engineers, the bank said.

A spokesman for JP Morgan Europe said: "We have chosen to establish a technology centre of excellence in Scotland because it has a mature IT infrastructure and a rich supply of high-quality technology professionals." He added that the new centre will "combine the best of both investment banking and software house cultures". Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, said the decision to base the centre in Glasgow came after he met JP Morgan executives in New York. Another US investment bank, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, will today announce a new development at Cumbernauld, Strathclyde, creating 1,000 new jobs.

Midland's Malta deal

MIDLAND BANK, the HSBC Holdings subsidiary, plans to buy a 67 per cent stake in Mid-Med Bank, the biggest bank in Malta, from the Maltese Government. The bank had a net asset value of about \$183 million (£114 million) on September 30, and 60 offices and branches and 1,800 staff. HSBC shares rose 102p to £22.05 yesterday. The sale is part of a strategy by the Maltese Government gradually to sell its interests in various industries. A Midland spokesman said that the bank would announce further details of the acquisition in a few weeks. Midland was the only bank interested in buying the stake in Mid-Med.

Citadel back in black

CITADEL HOLDINGS, the investor in French property that is quoted on the Alternative Investment Market, said that it made profits of £3 million in 1998 against a loss of £100,000 the previous year. Sten Mortstedt, chairman, said that the company would continue its strategy of acquiring modern, well-located properties in Paris and Lyon. The improvement in the French property market helped to raise the company's net asset value by 33 per cent to 142.1p. The dividend for the year rises to 3p from 0.5p. Citadel shares were unchanged yesterday at 95.4p.

MoD prefers Cobham

COBHAM, the defence aerospace group, said yesterday that it had been named as the preferred bidder for the Ministry of Defence's electronic warfare training services contract. Cobham's FR Aviation currently operates the contract, which is due for renewal in May 2000. The company said that, although negotiations were continuing, if FR got the renewal it would be worth more than £200 million over the ten-year life of the deal.

Blockleys slips into red

BLOCKLEYS, the brickmaker that recently saw off a hostile bid from Natural Building Materials, slipped into the red last year after a downturn in sales. A 10 per cent decline near the end of the year saw 1998 turnover fall to £9.4 million (£10.3 million). The group recorded a trading loss of £102,000, but after interest payments and the £450,000 cost of defending the bid the loss was £1 million, against a pre-tax profit of £230,000 in 1997. The final dividend is cut to 0.15p, giving a total of 0.3p (0.45p).

Shearer gives lesson in strategy

When it comes to budgeting, copy England, says Robert Bittlestone

Three quarters of the way through the recent England v Poland football match viewers were surprised to see players huddled in conference while the game continued on the pitch beside them. Apparently they had stopped for a discussion about their objectives for the next game. "We always prepare a detailed plan," said Alan Shearer, "otherwise the players won't know what's expected of them when we play Bulgaria in June."

An unlikely scenario, but that is what happens in big corporations every year. Several months before year end, the ritual war dance called Annual Budgeting begins. Determining next year's objectives occupies about three months — time that is lost from the task of meeting this year's objectives.

In a December year end company the first activity is at the end of the summer when the budget briefing pack is issued. By September the first draft of the budget is required from subsidiaries. In October there is preliminary management comment and in November detailed submission and review, culminating in board approval. If the business has a matrix structure involving international product groups or customer segments as well as geographical subsidiaries, there are additional layers of complexity.

Most of this time is spent in accessing data, creating budget spreadsheets and revising them

as required. Relatively little "quality" time is spent in thinking through the fundamental drivers of the business and debating ways in which new decisions could improve the bottom line. Little time is left also to incorporate new goals such as optimising shareholder value.

The process invites political manipulation for any executive whose bonus depends on meeting a negotiated target. It is so much less exhausting to reduce a target than to improve achievement: even Alan Shearer must dream of being able to shift the goalposts. Some of the hallowed techniques include: submitting a low forecast for the current year end and then beating it, while conveniently omitting to clarify that the budgeted 20 per cent growth for next year is now really only 12 per cent; creative accounting that releases profit from the balance sheet by manipulating provisions; and fatalistic masochism which yields under duress to a head office-imposed budget and then takes positive delight in saying "we told you so" when it is missed next year.

So how can we escape this corporate nightmare? Here are some practical alternatives being adopted by a growing number of large corporations:

The world does not stop at midnight on December 31. We should refuse to allow our common sense to be overruled by the proponents of financial eschatology. Instead, we should



Robert Bittlestone predicts a watershed in budgeting

establish a continuous forecast on a 12 or 24-month ahead rolling basis. The future cannot be predicted exactly, so we should explicitly incorporate a risk range of possible outcomes in forecasts, rather than a single set of goals.

Performance rewards should be based on beating historic performance and our competitors' achievement, not on budget negotiation skills. If we pay people based on growth against last year set against a benchmark of our competitors' results, then

the political aspects of budget-setting become irrelevant.

Interactive graphic models should be used to make explicit the linkage between cause and effect. We should use modern technology to help us to visualise immediately the effect on shareholder value of, say, a reduction in customer payment period from 60 to 40 days. Automation of these aspects cuts out weeks of "back office" data churning and involves the executive team in visualising the financial dynamics of their business as a whole. This focus on graphic rather than purely numeric techniques is deliberate.

These days our children have lavish state-of-the-art technology to simulate the exploits of a James Bond villain or a *Tomb Raider*. Imagine their reaction if they were invited to dispense with that visual imagery and peruse the outcome of their battle decisions as a series of numeric tables. Remarkably, when executives sit down to simulate battle for their companies, that is precisely what they are expected to do.

This is because the ground-work involved is organised by accountants, who no doubt have inherited genes that code for partiality to numeric presentation. However, behavioural studies make it clear that most line managers do not share the same genes and do not digest corporate information effectively via tabular presentations.

Senior managers have historically been uncomfortable with the personal use of technology, apart from e-mail. Even that still has its sceptics. But the approaching millennium is a cross-over year in this regard: newly appointed managers in their early thirties have been educated since the 1980s to use computers themselves. By 2005 this microprocessing meteorite will have eradicated the last of the dinosaurs and there will be no more excuses for dedicating a quarter of every year to the production of next year's budget. Evidently some companies don't intend to wait until then.

Robert Bittlestone is managing director of Metapragmatics Ltd.

Chinese walls must be built to last

THE one clincher that clients put forward when arguing against the further consolidation of accountancy firms is that of conflict of interest. With only a Big Five group of firms, companies find it an immensely complicated task to select an adviser — in even the simplest of cases — who is not "conflicted out".

When it comes to court work, such as that of expert witnesses, this was not quite so much of a problem. The half a dozen or so firms in the mid-tier were perfectly capable of providing help without much likelihood of problems.

But even they are now starting to consolidate, and the latest efforts to merge, by Robson Rhodes and Pannell Kerr Forster, have provoked a court action that is likely to provide the best guidance that professional firms throughout the City need on Chinese walls.

Whereas the case of KPMG and Prince Jefri Bolkiah, the brother of the Sultan of Brunei, last December dealt with the problems of an overlap of clients, the new case deals with the much more likely problem of professional firms falling over each other.

The Prince Jefri case provides a warning to firms. But it is one of greed. KPMG fell into the trap by behaving like characters from an old *Tom and Jerry* cartoon. As soon as the words Sultan of Brunei came up, their eyes started revolving like cash registers. They knew that there was bound to be a conflict. But all those fees... there had to be a way to get around the conflict.

But as the House of Lords finally ruled last December, there was not. Partly this was because of the sheer number of people within KPMG who had worked on the original Prince Jefri project. When it comes to 12 partners, 15 directors, 9 consultants, 43 managers and 18 assistant managers, and a small amount of more than £4 million in fees, it is going to be very difficult to ring-fence that lot when another project to investigate its workings comes into the office.

The lesson learnt in future will simply be that professional firms just don't take up such assignments.

But the Robson Rhodes case is different. Their partner, Frank Attwood, who had triumphed over Ernst & Young in the Merrett case, was asked by a group of Lloyd's names to act as an expert witness

against Pannell Kerr Forster on a similar case. He did so. The work started.

Then came the news that Robsons intended merging with Pannells. Attwood said that they would have to resign the work. The syndicate took him and the firm to court and argued that this would be a breach of contract. The syndicate won. And the judge imposed a series of conditions laying down how confidentiality was to work, assuming the merger is voted through by partners.

One of the conditions is that neither of the partners involved can attend partners' meetings during the period of the action. As a result, neither Frank Attwood nor his fellow partner, Hosein Hamedani, can go to the partners' meeting which will vote on the merger.

But the process is aided by the fact that it involves a very small team of people. It is more manageable. And the process is also aided by the fact that the judge refined Lord Millett's judgment in the Prince Jefri case.

Lord Millett said then that "in my opinion, an effective Chinese wall needs to be an established part of the organisational structure of the firm, not created ad hoc and dependent on the acceptance of evidence sworn for the purpose by members of staff engaged on the relevant work".

But in the Robson Rhodes judgment, Mr Justice Ladd said: "The crucial question is will the barriers work? If they do, it does not matter whether they were created before the problem arose or are erected afterwards."

"It seems to me that all Lord Millett was saying was that Chinese walls which have become part of the fabric of the institution are more likely to work than those artificially put in place to meet a one-off problem."

So what now appears to be acceptable is that Attwood and his team have to work in a separate building, not take part in partnership affairs and have all their documentation removed and held at the firm's solicitors.

In short, the Chinese walls should be effective and rigorous and be seen by the outside world to be serious. Professional firms should, in short, behave professionally. There is nothing new in that sentiment. But professional firms, be they lawyers, accountants or whoever, would do themselves several favours by sticking to that simple adage.



ROBERT BRUCE

More pressing concerns

IT WAS, of course, the power of the press. This week the effort by Arthur Andersen to poach the KPMG practice in Canada was aborted amid a welter of recriminations. But those in the know suggest that one of the reasons is that press barons like to keep their own company. Rupert Murdoch is chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times* and News Corp is audited by Arthur Andersen.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Conrad Black, whose Hollinger company owns *The Daily Telegraph* among other publications, has KPMG Canada as auditors. It is thought that he preferred to stick to the idea that never the twain should meet.

Party on

AT LEAST Robson Rhodes partner Frank Attwood will be able to go to the odd Christmas party this year. Having been barred from partners' meetings as a result of being an expert witness in a case in which a Lloyd's syndicate is suing Robson's new merger partner, Pannell Kerr Forster, the Chinese walls do not go as far as that. He will still be allowed a social life. The judgment that defines the relevant restrictions considered the hypothetical idea of preventing Attwood "meeting at a Christmas party another partner of Robson Rhodes who, for part of his

time, happens to work with an ex-Pannell Kerr Forster partner who is, or was, connected in some way with the Syndicate Litigation". Fortunately for Attwood, Mr Justice Ladd decided that in his view "that goes far beyond preventing leakage of information and extends into the realm of the fanciful and theatrical".

Antidimax

WHEN Gordon Brown be-

came Chancellor of the Exchequer we heard much in favour of the idea of a general anti-avoidance rule, a GAAR, to curb the antisocial behaviour of tax advisers who preferred to help taxpayers to keep their money rather than giving too much of it to the Treasury.

Now the impracticalities of such a rule have sunk in, there has been much less rattling of Treasury sabres. But tax insiders are looking out for the Chancellor's holiday plans. Portugal has just introduced a GAAR.

ROBERT BRUCE

حكمة من الامم

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
100	AB InBev	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
101	Brewery	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
102	Carlsberg	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
103	Heineken	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
104	Kaiser	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
105	Miller	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
106	Orkla	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
107	Reckitt Benckiser	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
108	SABMiller	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
109	Tenneco	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
110	United Breweries	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

BANKS

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
111	Bank of America	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
112	Bank of China	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
113	Bank of India	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
114	Bank of Japan	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
115	Bank of Korea	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
116	Bank of London	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
117	Bank of Montreal	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
118	Bank of New York	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
119	Bank of Paris	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
120	Bank of Scotland	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
121	Alcoa	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
122	Boeing	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
123	General Electric	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
124	Johnson & Johnson	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
125	Merck	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
126	Pfizer	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
127	Roche	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
128	Schering-Plough	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
129	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
130	Amgen	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
131	Intel	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
132	Microsoft	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
133	Oracle	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
134	SAP	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
135	Siemens	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
136	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
137	Telefonica	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
138	Telecom France	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
139	Telecom UK	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
140	Telecom Spain	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

ENGINEERING

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
141	ABB	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
142	Alstom	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
143	Siemens	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
144	ABB	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
145	ABB	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
146	ABB	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
147	ABB	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
148	ABB	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
149	ABB	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
150	ABB	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

CONSTRUCTION

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
151	Bechtel	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
152	Skanska	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
153	Heidelberg	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
154	Skanska	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
155	Skanska	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
156	Skanska	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
157	Skanska	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
158	Skanska	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
159	Skanska	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
160	Skanska	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

DISTRIBUTORS

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
161	Walmart	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
162	Target	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
163	Kroger	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
164	Walmart	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
165	Walmart	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
166	Walmart	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
167	Walmart	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
168	Walmart	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
169	Walmart	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
170	Walmart	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
171	Unilever	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
172	Unilever	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
173	Unilever	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
174	Unilever	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
175	Unilever	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
176	Unilever	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
177	Unilever	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
178	Unilever	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
179	Unilever	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
180	Unilever	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

HEALTHCARE

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
181	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
182	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
183	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
184	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
185	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
186	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
187	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
188	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
189	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
190	Novartis	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

LEISURE & HOTELS

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
191	Accor Hotels	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
192	Accor Hotels	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
193	Accor Hotels	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
194	Accor Hotels	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
195	Accor Hotels	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
196	Accor Hotels	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
197	Accor Hotels	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
198	Accor Hotels	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
199	Accor Hotels	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
200	Accor Hotels	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

MINING

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
201	Barrick Gold	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
202	Barrick Gold	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
203	Barrick Gold	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
204	Barrick Gold	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
205	Barrick Gold	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
206	Barrick Gold	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
207	Barrick Gold	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
208	Barrick Gold	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
209	Barrick Gold	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
210	Barrick Gold	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

PROPERTY

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
211	British Land	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
212	British Land	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
213	British Land	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
214	British Land	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
215	British Land	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
216	British Land	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
217	British Land	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
218	British Land	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
219	British Land	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
220	British Land	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
221	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
222	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
223	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
224	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
225	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
226	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
227	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
228	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
229	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
230	Telecom Italia	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

TRANSPORT

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
231	British Airways	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
232	British Airways	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
233	British Airways	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
234	British Airways	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
235	British Airways	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
236	British Airways	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
237	British Airways	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
238	British Airways	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
239	British Airways	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
240	British Airways	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

WATER

Code	Company	Price	% Chg	52 Wk High	52 Wk Low
241	Veolia Water	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
242	Veolia Water	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
243	Veolia Water	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
244	Veolia Water	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
245	Veolia Water	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00
246	Veolia Water	100.00	0.0	100.00	100.00

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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DANCE

No joke
John Travolta
goes balletic

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Double tribute
to Sir Neville
Martin

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NEW MOVIES: John Travolta's yuppie lawyer keeps James Christopher gripped, even without any nymphomaniacs

Legal eagle has a flutter

A Civil Action has none of the Hollywood ingredients of a great courtroom thriller. There are no psychotic attorneys, no heart-clutching car chases, no nymphomaniacs. The film is an old-fashioned slow-burner, based on a small environmental catastrophe in one of the most boring bits of New England that God created. I've been there. The town of Woburn is stretched out like a road-kill beside an anonymous motorway.

Yet *A Civil Action* is the most compelling legal drama I've seen in years. Part of the fascination is undoubtedly the fact that it is based on a real case, expertly documented in Jonathan Harr's bestselling novel. But the reason the film grips is an alarming national conviction that courts in America have more in common with casinos than democracy.

Travolta's plump ambulance-chaser, Jan Schlichtmann, never lets go of the analogy. As the case unfolds his voiceover unleashes statistics, calls the odds and places the bets. The case itself is utterly self-evident. Local chemical companies have been illegally dumping toxic waste into the ground for years. The chemicals have dripped into the water system, and eight families have suffered the deaths of children, mental deficiencies, and leukaemia.

The task of proving anything is an entirely different matter. Stuffed into an expensive Italian suit, Travolta's slick Boston yuppie initially resists the action. But compelled by his crusading sense of vanity, he breaks all his own rules and finds himself squaring up to companies with no scruples and very deep pockets. Worse, he finds himself squaring up to Robert Duvall's wily defence lawyer in a titanic battle of nerve. The director Steven Zaillian casts brilliantly.

There is the usual spread of villains and victims, the slow drip of evidence being collected, and the sight of witnesses (Stephen Fry and Tony Shalhoub) being squeezed like sponges. But it's the exhilarating clash of egos and styles that proves so compelling. Travolta milks the jury, while Duvall's shrivelled old-timer coolly beguiles the judge. Duvall is terrifying because he never seems to be there, even when he is there. Apart from the sly self-demeaning chuckle, he does little but sellotape his battered briefcase, play with pens, eat his packed lunches, and listen to the Red Sox game on his transistor.

Shot with claustrophobic formality in oak-stained courtrooms, stuffy Boston clubs and swanky hotel suites, the film cleverly pricks away at more deep-seated insecurities. Travolta, obsessed as he is by exposing the truth, is derailed by pride. Haemorrhaging money it hasn't got, Travolta's practice plunges towards bankruptcy. One of the great impon-

A Civil Action

Empire
15, 115 mins
Meaty courtroom drama
with John Travolta and
Robert Duvall

Bedrooms and Hallways

UCI Whiteleys
15, 96 mins
Playful comedy about
male bonding

The Faculty

Warner Village West
End
15, 104 mins
Fishty sci-fi thriller with
high comedy quota

Nô

Barbican
15, 85 mins
A slick, seductive
conjuror's trick from
Robert Lepage

The Red Violin

Odeon Haymarket
15, 130 mins
Ripping yarn with
spooky violin

Slam

Metro
15, 99 mins
The gritty, enthralling
world of a rap poet

Orgazmo

Plaza
18, 90 mins
Slapstick on a porno set

the men, and the plot goes haywire. The delectable Jennifer Ehle comes knocking at McKidd's door, and discovers that her first boyfriend is having an affair with her recent ex. Troche pushes the film towards outright farce with her kitsch cutaways to McKidd's pina colada fantasies. But it is splendidly salvaged by memorable cameos from a raft of bitchy British thespians, notably Tom Hollander, Hugo Weaving and Harriet Walter.

Personality disorder of the week goes to *The Faculty* in charge of a decrepit high school in Ohio. The football coach is psychotic, the history teacher is a chronic alcoholic, and the English tutor is in serious need of therapy. So far, so perfectly normal, until the faculty is invaded by alien squid footsies from outer space. The red parasites crawl into ears, wriggle around under the skin and, in moments of high excitement, explode out of faces like giant catfish.

Amazingly, none of the pupils seems to care apart from the school geek, Elijah Wood. Kevin Williamson, the scribe behind the Post-Modern teen horror *Scream*, provides another train-spotter's medley of horror clichés. The surprise is that it's actually quite entertaining in the "who's next for calamity?" vein, as the director, Robert Rodriguez, flogs the creeping paranoia with seat-clutching wit.

Robert Lepage's third feature, *Nô*, is a self-contained chunk of his dazzling seven-hour stage epic, *Seven Streams of the River Ota*. A gawky actress (Anne-Marie Cadieux) plays a sluttish maid in a ridiculous Feydeau farce chosen to represent Canada at the 1970 World Fair in Osaka. Her boyfriend (Alexis Martin) makes bombs for the Quebec separatist movement in his flat in Montreal. From these unpromising ingredients Lepage fashions a supple black comedy. There are ingenious sleights of hand, but little hard evidence as to what exactly is going on. What's left is a psychedelic chain of associations and a lot of intriguing questions.

Music has illuminated François Girard's best work, notably *Thirty Two Short Films About Glenn Gould*. In *The Red Violin*, it is a musical instrument that obsesses the director. The violin, varnished with a dead woman's blood, turns successive fiddlers into the *Jimi Hendrix* of their age. It's a wildly romantic, utterly corny fable that spans three centuries, five languages and several continents. But like the violin itself, the film is spookily hard to put down.

The action pivots around an auction room in Montreal. Between bidders, the film flashes through the past owners like an episodic thriller. Shifts of time and place are cleverly



Mug shots: Robert Duvall and John Travolta are on opposite sides in Steven Zaillian's compelling fact-based courtroom drama, *A Civil Action*

counterpointed by shifts in musical styles (John Corigliano). But there isn't a single frame that aspires to anything more substantial than shameless myth-making. Jason Flemyng's Byronic genius cradles it between his naked thighs. Greta Scacchi's lamentable Pre-Raphaelite tears her clothes off at the mere sound of

it. Samuel L. Jackson's American specialist drools over its quality. A ripping yarn, if not ripping art.

Justice gets its second mauling of the week in Marc Levin's *Slam*, a fierce film that documents the fears of a black poet who gets sucked into the prison system on a minor drugs charge. Saul Williams

puts in a hair-raising performance as the dreadlocked poet who keeps the prison-yard meat-heads at bay with bursts of rapping eloquence. If his stand is somewhat crudely overlaid with symbolism, the urgency with which it's filmed is not. Williams, a gaunt, troubled presence, makes a sensational screen debut. The gritty,

documentary style frames his edgy performance without lionising it. The film has already picked off two top festival awards at Cannes and Sundance. I won't be remotely surprised if it picks up more.

Even garbage collectors might choke on Trey Parker's spoof of the LA porn industry, *Orgazmo*. A Bible-thumping

Mormon (Parker) ends up in a porn flick, dressed as a caped crusader. His diminutive sidekick, Ben Chaplin, sports a giant phallus on top of his head and launches himself at naked women. Parker's insufferable fiancée nearly expires with shock. To say I nearly expired with excitement would be deeply misleading.

NEW ON VIDEO

LE BOSSU

Pathé, 15, 1997
FRENCH cinema likes this swashbuckling tale of honour, greed and revenge in the early 18th century: this is its sixth remake. It makes excellent material for Daniel Auteuil and Fabrice Luchini, perfectly cast as a dashing sword-for-hire and the villain who grabs wealth and a title. Philippe de Broca's film lacks the visual finesse of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, but its humour, good spirit and rousing swordplay provide many other delights. Marie Gillan adds the feminine touch. To buy or rent.

BUFFALO '66

Columbia TriStar, 15, 1997
VINCENT GALLO stars in and makes his quirky directing debut with this wayward tale of a malcontent convict returning home to his unresponsive parents in Buffalo, New York. Along the way he kidnaps a tap-dancing student (a great performance from Christina Ricci) and gets her to pose as his wife. Gallo the director indulges Gallo the actor rather too much, but a good first feature. Available to rent.

PRIMARY COLORS

CIC, 15, 1998
REAL events may have overtaken this slick account of a Clintonesque Governor's scandal-ridden race to the White House. But nothing has eroded the finely pitched performances, nor director Mike Nichols's skill in juggling his bustling characters. John Travolta is convincingly charismatic as the would-be President with a silver tongue and a fatal attraction for the opposite sex, while Emma Thompson hits all the right notes as his sharp cookie of a wife. A rental release.

RIEN NE VA PLUS

Artificial Eye, 15, 1997
ISABELLE HUPPERT and Michel Serrault would be worth watching even if they did nothing but stand at a bus stop, though you still wish Claude Chabrol, the director, had filled this comedy thriller with something more worth their time. They play an ill-matched couple of swindlers who get into deeper water than usual with an international money scam. Lots of fun early on, full of piquant human observations; but boredom creeps in once the scam moves in. Chabrol's fiftieth feature.

GEOFF BROWN

"A FEAST OF FINE ACTING ESPECIALLY BY DAMES JUDI AND MAGGIE."

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Nick Fisher - THE SUN



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Lorin Haynes, New Woman

"FANTASTIC"

Matthew Bingham, FHM

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Marianne Gray, Film Review

Audience Award
London Film Festival
1998

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AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

LISTINGS

Rachel Weisz on stage

ARTS

Singing along with Abba

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargre

LONDON

SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER Sheila Gish plays the venomous mother and Rachel Weisz the traumatised wife in famous Tennessee Williams shocker. Sean Mathias directs. Comedy (0171-380 1731). Preview from tonight, 8pm.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA The string orchestra with Daniel Gail conducting Berg's Violin Concerto (soloist Mark Koplan) and two works by Brahms: Variations on a Theme by Haydn and the Third Symphony. Barbican (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

BLOOD SWEAT Barry Walford and Gordon Case star in Alfred Fugard's updated version of his celebrated black and white brothers play. Wilton Judd directs. Riverside Studios (0161-237 1111). Opens tonight, 7.45pm.

ELSEWHERE

CHELTENHAM Veteran rock-cum-jazzman, Van Morrison, leads off the international jazz festival. The gravel-voiced singer is joined on stage by a live band headed by saxophonist Pete Whitt (01628 227279).

GLASGOW The Royal Scottish National Orchestra concludes its Discovery Series with an evening of British music. Purcell opens the programme followed by the Scottish premiere of Tippett's colourful *The Rose Lake*. Walton's Cello Concerto, performed by Raphael Wallfisch, and



Van Morrison opens the Cheltenham Jazz Festival

Britain's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. James Loughran conducts. Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7pm.

MANCHESTER Soprano Rebecca Evans joins the Hallé Orchestra as soloist in Britten's *Luxembourg*. Two symphonies follow: Mozart's *Lincoln* and Beethoven's *Eroica*. The conductor is John Neschling. Bridgewater Hall (0161-207 9000). Tonight, 7.30pm.

OXFORD After an extended London run, Farnham's *Alma's* latest show, *Barbed Wire*, arrives in town for three nights of topical satire and song. Playhouse (01865 798800). Tonight and Sat, 7.30pm. Tomorrow, 8pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ■ Some seats available ■ Seats at all prices

MAMMA MIA! Musical based on the songs of ABBA. Siobhan McCarthy and Louise Plowright play mother and daughter on the eve of the girl's wedding. Phyllida Lloyd directs. See review, p. 37. Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

ROBERTO ZUCCO James Macdonald's acclaimed Stratford production of Bernard-Marie Koltès's mesmerising drama. Zucco Valtierra plays the killer here. PR (0171-638 8891).

THE GIN GAME Dorothy Tutin and John Alderton play old folk in a retirement home where the card-playing styles echo their sad lives. Frith Banbury directs a surprising Pulitzer Prize-winner. Stryker (0171-638 8888).

THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason make their British stage debuts in Neil Simon's play about big city angst. Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-880 8800).

GOOD C.P. Taylor's best play, tracing a liberal professor's gradual descent into working with the Nazis. Charles Dance heads a strong cast. Michael Grieve directs. DeWent (0171-588 1792).

THE COLONEL BIRD Bulgarian author Hristo Boychev's award-winning play about an asylum taken over by the lunatics. Rupert Goold directs. DeWent (0171-588 1792).

SACRED HEART In Mick Mahoney's new play two second-generation Irish lads from NW3 meet again after years estranged. Edward Hall directs. Ambassadors (0171-638 8800).

GROSS INDECENCY The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde. Michael Pennington plays Wilde, with William Hootkins and Celia Farrow as counsel for and against, in Moisés Kaufman's play. Gielgud (0171-494 5065).

HAMILT Paul Rhys plays the prince in Laurence Olivier's new production. With David Sumner as Claudius. Young Vic (0171-638 6363).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG). Flashes of genius and dry humour illuminate Zeffirelli's sentimental tribute to the culture-mad English spinsters who raised the director in Florence as a boy. Mussolini jelled them. With Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright, and Judi Dench.

PLUNKETT & MACLEANE (15). John Scott's 19th-century westerner is closer to Dutch Canby and the Sundance Kid than *The Paley*. Progress. With Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12). Ingenious comedy about a man (Brendan Fraser) released after 35 years in a nuclear bunker. He 1950s values make him look mystical, mad, and blindly naive in the sci-fi 1990s. Bill Kelly directs.

BEYOND SILENCE (12). Plucky performance can't save this a tortuous travel through a German soap in which a young girl tries to get a life beyond her profoundly deaf parents. Caroline Link directs.

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12). Charles Laughton's one and only stab at directing in a Tom Sawyer versus Sweeney Todd nightmare. Robert Minkoff's crooked preacher

is unforgettable. An absolute classic 1958 fear movie.

AUGUST IN THE WATER (R). You could hang Scott's last surreal Japanese science fiction on the Tate. It's a beautiful, inscrutable look at a city cursed by drought and a mysterious epidemic that turns the gues to stone.

CURRENT

GOODS AND MONSTERS (15). Ian McEwan's exiles as a legendary horror movie director who grows his garden (Brendan Fraser) for a role far darker than that of over-nice director. Bill Condon directs.

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18). Edward Norton is heroically compelling as a white supremacist who turns in Tony Blair's controversial but doomed attempt to get under the skin of an American gangster.

PAYBACK (18). Mel Gibson blasts his way through Brian Koppelman's chunky story in which a young girl tries to get a life beyond her profoundly deaf parents. Caroline Link directs.

THE RUGGATS MOVIE (U). Painless, big cartoon adventure in which Larry (David) and his friends (the Rugrats) are sent to a spooky forest. Willy enough for adults as an unreluctant necessity for three to eight-year-olds.

Tonic for trouper

I imagine you decided to slot *Ring-a-Roses*, *The Grand Old Duke of York*, *Hushabye Baby* and a score of other nursery rhymes into a musical play about the intricacies of bee-keeping or the perils of hang-gliding. You would have set yourself a challenge only a little more taxing than that facing the creators of *Mamma Mia!*, who are celebrating the 25th anniversary of Abba's Eurovision Song Contest triumph by cramming 20 or so of their numbers into an endearing preposterous tale about a bride's search for her dad.

How does this exercise in creative shoe-horning work? Well, take the celebrated title song, which most people would assume to be all about a child's ambivalent feelings for a maddening mum. Here it is the mother who is singing that she's broken-hearted, blue since the day we parted. Here, the joint objects of her love are the three men she loved and lost 21 years ago. And, believe it or not, it is they who chorus all that guff about taking one look, hearing a bell ring and forgetting everything.

Fortunately, our librettist is Catherine Johnson, who has a nice, naïf story to tell and her tongue stuck so far into her cheek it tumbles out of an ear and down to a knee. How else would she get away with setting her story in and around a white-plastered taverna on an Aegean island where there are no sunbathers, no music that doesn't hie from Sweden, and, apart from a priest dressed as an Anglican vicar, nary a Greek to be seen? How else would she get away with that story?

Lisa Stokke's sweet young Sophie has belatedly twigged that her long-missing, long-unmentioned Pa is either a banker, an architect or a travel-writer. So she secretly invites all three to her wedding in hopes of discovering which of them should be giving her away. This comes as rather a



Mamma Mia! Prince Edward

shock to her mother Donna. Take an educated guess at the reaction of Siobhan McCarthy, the splendidly feisty, full-voiced actress who plays the part. That's right, it is to launch into the song *SOS* with the most appealing of the candidates, Hilton Macrae's architect: I wish I understood, our love used to be so good, etc.

As many another number re-emphasises, lyrics were never Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvæus's strength. It was the pounding rhythms that mattered, along with melodies that remained relentlessly upbeat whatever the emotional provocation. Time after time on the first night the familiar sounds were greeted with applause and knowing laughter. After all, to follow Donna's collapse in dismay with *Chiquitita* — "tell me the truth, I'm a shoulder you can cry on, your best friend and the one you must rely on" — is quite a jolly in-joke, especially when the song is robustly rendered by Louise Plowright and Jenny Galloway.

Yes, and before a setting moon twice as big as Naxos has brought Phyllida Lloyd's bouncy production to a suitably improbable close, we somehow contrive to hear *Money, Money, Money*, *Super Trouper* and lots more. For that, Abba fans will doubtless forgive anything. And with so much fun in the theatrical air, the rest of us might as well indulge them.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE
This review appeared in late editions of The Times yesterday



Dancing queens: (from left) Louise Plowright (Tanya), Siobhan McCarthy (Donna), Jenny Galloway (Rosie)

Putting up his Dukes



JAZZ

The Duke's centenary falls this month, and the party is warring up nicely. Serious collectors will be rummaging through the 24 discs in RCA's new *Centennial Edition*. Wynton Marsalis pays his own tribute with his Lincoln Centre Jazz Orchestra this summer, and even Jesse Norman has been recruited for a Barbican performance of songs from the *Sacred Suites*, the religious works that dominated Ellington's final years.

If the celebrations ever threaten to become too pious, Pete Long's anorak-free orchestra, Echoes of Ellington, will always be around to supply some perspective. There is never any doubting Long's commitment to the cause, but the irreverent, free-wheeling mood he generates on the standstill also reminds us that, for Ellington, composition was not something to be pondered on Mt Olympus but a hectic work-in-progress to be pursued in clubs, on trains and in quiet corners of studios.

Although the atmosphere is never less than convivial — evoking the speakasy years at

the Cotton Club or the barnstorming ambience of the Newport Festival shows — the choice of material veers a long way from the standard greatest-hits package.

True, we did get *Take the A-Train*, yet even here Long looked to an offbeat source, resurrecting the pungent arrangement that Billy Strayhorn scribbled out at short notice for the *Songbook* album with Ella Fitzgerald. Patricia Revell handled the vocals with cool flair; Bruce Adams added a playful muted trumpet solo.

Revell was back on hand for *Rose of the Rio Grande*, an ancient Harry Warren hit which found its way on to the programme for Ellington's historic Carnegie Hall concert of 1943, but the jaunty melody sat uneasily alongside Ellington's own work.

Rockin' in Rhythm had set the evening off on a familiar note, but the programme continually sprang surprises. Ellington's very first tune, *Soda Fountain Rag*, was recreated by Don Innes at the piano, and the orchestra plunged convincingly into the funeral harmonies of Mercer Ellington's *Blue Serge*.

The Blanton-Webster band of the early 1940s served as a touchstone, but the time-travelling delved further back on *Rent Party Blues*, initially propelled by Clark Tracey's quaint two-beat pulse on the cymbal. Trombones and reeds did not always mesh, and the recently rediscovered closing number by Strayhorn, *Pentastich*, outstayed its welcome. But the spirit of the music came through loud and clear.

CLIVE DAVIS

The words have it

DANCE

They don't come more opposite than poetry and dance. The one speaks directly from the mind, the other directly from the body. So what happens when you put them together, as this year's *Spring Loaded* festival at London's Place Theatre has done? Not a lot, as it happens, because this innovative event, which calls itself *Elbow Room*, has thrown away the opportunity to make something of itself.

The poetry comes courtesy of John Hegley, a very funny man, and even funnier on stage than on the page. His poems, many about growing up in Luton, are packaged as comedy but carry a bite. Beneath the bass line of his pleasantly silly rhymes lurks a clutch of asstringent arrows. Hegley fires them with maximum accuracy and timing; just when you think a poem is nonsense he turns it around in a flash. His verse is the most commendable offering in a two-hour revue that sees the comedian acting as both compere and star attraction. The dance is represented by several short duets of little import, along with two longer chunks of

dance theatre. In the best tradition of variety entertainment, a little music is thrown in, along with a couple of cabaret — chucked at the audience at the show's start just to ensure we are awake when the lurid red house lights dim. Potatoes come later, part of Hegley's reprise of last year's *Dances With Potatoes*.

The only substantial dance is *Cinder Reilly*, a goofy retelling of the Cinderella tale performed by the Irish dance theatre company Clerkinworks. They tap their way saucily

through a mildly entertaining spoof in which Cinderella gets less than she bargained for. The jokes are thin; the choreography even thinner.

Wendy Houston gets the second half's centrepiece. Her *Happy Hour* is "15 minutes of some bits of a longer piece" and we can only be grateful that we were not subjected to the fully monty. In this display of theatrical vanity, Houston regales us with a verbal monologue that sees her adopt several tedious personae: from a wheedling bartender to a self-righteous drunk. A perfunctory arsenal of agitated gestures accompanies this feeble and boring enterprise.

If Hegley's own meagre contribution to the proceedings is any indication, he views dance merely as physical punctuation to his words. He moves with an intriguing flexibility and intelligence, but shows no understanding of what it is that dance can say and words cannot. And if the bard of Luton is so interested in dance why has he surrounded himself with such second-rate acts?

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MUSIC

Neville Marriner at 75

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ARTS

CLASSICAL CDS

Brendel's Beethoven

Forty years in fields of glory

MUSIC: Richard Morrison meets Sir Neville Marriner, as he prepares to conduct his 75th birthday gala

If ever a pocket cartoon summed up a man's achievement, it was the celebrated one carried by *The New Yorker* a few years ago. It showed a parrot listening to the radio. Out of the airwaves came the announcer's voice: "That was the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields..." Quick as a flash, the parrot chirped in: "...conducted by Sir Neville Marriner."

There was indeed a time when this majestic combo seemed intent on recording everything and touring everywhere. Ask Marriner how many pieces he has recorded and he answers, with delightful nonchalance: "Oh, someone totted them up once, but they lost count after 1,600."

Today, with the record industry much shrunken, the Academy's dominance is less marked — but it remains the most famous chamber orchestra in the world. Time, then, to celebrate Marriner's achievement, for next week a Festival Hall concert marks not only his own 75th birthday but also the 40th anniversary of the auspicious moment when he founded the ensemble that transformed orchestral standards for ever.

The London music scene of the 1950s was very different from today's: less disciplined, more ebullient. For a while Marriner, an LSO violinist, larked about with the best of them. "I used to travel to concerts with a violinist called Peter Gibbs, who had been an RAF pilot and owned a Tiger Moth," he recalls. "One day we took a lot of flour-bags up with us and bombed the LSO from the road from Brussels."

Ostend, I don't think I could plume players like that in my orchestra now. "But something in Marriner rebelled against this easy-going scene. The concept of the academy began innocuously enough. "We didn't take it seriously at first," he says. "We used to gather in my flat to play chamber music for fun. Then our keyboard player, Jack Churchill, who was music director at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, suggested that we give a concert there after a service. He said stragglers were always hanging around, hoping to keep warm."

"Well, we discussed names in the pub. We weren't big enough to be called an orchestra, and we hated the word 'ensemble'. Then the vicar said: 'You know that around the Strand in the 18th century there were clubs called academies, for people with similar interests in the arts or sciences?' We said: 'Fine, we'll call ourselves the Academy.' Then he said: 'Don't forget the church...' So we came up with this ridiculous name."



Sir Neville Marriner: "The most important test of a future Academy player is to take them on tour and see if you can bear to spend time with them"

Ridiculous or not, it was instantly successful. The boss of the newly founded L'Oiseau Lyre record label came to that first concert and signed up the Academy on the spot. "We immediately recorded all those Italian ice-cream merchants: Manfredini, Corelli, and so on," Marriner recalls. "So in

"Sometimes you turn on the radio and hope it isn't yours. That happens to many musicians. I remember Alfred Brendel recalling how he was listening to a piano recital on the radio, and making a mental note of everything he didn't like about it, when the announcer said that the pianist was Alfred Brendel."

"Like Solti I think I will keep on going until I'm stopped"

Marriner's way of selecting players for the Academy has remained constant. First comes an audition. "You can tell within five minutes what they can do." Then they are put into the Academy for a concert or two to see how quickly they absorb its immaculate ensemble style. "But the most important test," Mar-

riner says, "is to take them on tour and see if you can bear to spend time with them. If they are miserable devils, they don't get invited back."

About two applicants in a hundred get through, and the turnover is high. "The average age of players in this 40-year-old orchestra is about 30," Marriner notes. "We find that the women have babies and then can't tour, while the men sooner or later need more security than we can offer, and join one of the salaried orchestras." Marriner takes little trouble

to conceal his disdain for the latter. "I get so mad with contract orchestras. Invariably, two people are missing from any rehearsal because they are at the dentist — usually a viola and double bass." The most pampered orchestras, he says, are in America. "The union rules there are so restrictive that orchestras virtually price themselves out of recordings. In Munich, the conductor can call a 12-hour rehearsal with two half-hour breaks, if he wants. In America a rehearsal is two-and-a-half hours maximum, with at least 20 minutes off, and they will stop in mid-bar if you overrun."

Similarly, Marriner has a strong aversion to government subsidy. The Academy has always been unsubsidised. "If the Arts Council give you money, they also tell you how to spend it. We didn't want other people's fingers poking into our artistic pie. Of course, the result is that the orchestra is always on a knife-edge, financially." That's why the Academy can be heard regularly in Germany (where ticket prices are much higher) yet has no London season. "We once sold out the Festival Hall and still lost £32,000 in a single night," Marriner says.

He talks of loosening ties with the Academy, having "decided two or three years ago that I wasn't immortal". And he revels in his new rural life in Devon. "I find that, when

I'm filling in the diary for 2004, my wife has already booked weeks that are important for work in the garden."

But what of his work with orchestras round the world? "Like Solti, I will probably go on until I'm stopped," he says wryly. "The awful thing about a conductor becoming geriatric is that you seem to become more desirable, not less. I just wish all these offers had come in when I was 30."

Times readers can purchase two tickets for the price of one on the top three ticket prices (£30, £24, £18) for Sir Neville Marriner's 75th Birthday Gala Concert, performed by the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields at the Festival Hall next Wednesday at 7.30pm. To book, call Times Live on 0870-842 2212. Lines are open 24 hours a day. The programme is Mozart, Britten and Mendelssohn.

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Brahms with bite; young Mozart; Brendel shines

CHAMBER

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MORE live recordings from the Mozartsaal in Vienna's Konzerthaus; and, as ever, there is little doubt about who is playing. From the finely drawn, ardent opening string notes of Brahms's Clarinet Quintet, before the soloist rises, lark-like, this is the distinctive sound of the Alban Berg Quartet. And, with Sabine Meyer's feisty clarinet, this is about the most high-fibre performance in the catalogue.

As the opening movement gets under way, the string ensemble can be gritty, acerbic even. And the slow movement, in this exceptionally close, intimate recording, reveals a fiercely intense partnership between soloist and quartet.

Hariolf Schlichting, who was the fine viola player of the Cherubini Quartet, throws himself into the fray as the extra player for the Quintet in G, an imaginative and less predictable coupling of repertoire than the often inevitable Mozart Clarinet Quartet. As expected, the Berg Quartet meet the cross-accents of the opening head-on and, with Schlichting contributing to its rich fabric, stomp splendidly through the Hungarian finale.

HILARY FINCH

OPERA

MOZART

Mitridate
Dessay/Bartoli/Asawa/
Sabbatini/Les Talents
Lyriques/Rousset
Decca 460 772-2
(3 CDs) ★ ★ ★ £38.99

THE final quintet of defiance against Roman tyranny, which runs for just under a minute, is one of the few pieces of concise composition in *Mitridate*. The 14-year-old Mozart's excursion into opera *seria* takes its time in telling the story of two brothers, Sifare

and Farnace, rivals for the hand of Aspasie on opposing sides in the Graeco-Roman wars. Even the most fervent Mozartian is likely to admit that there are tedious patches. *Mitridate* is rarely staged and even more rarely recorded.

But Decca has taken the plunge and cast the piece most generously. Natalie Dessay is in top form as Aspasie, surrounded by lies, treachery and even a possible marriage with King Mitridate himself. To her go the big emotional outbursts and Dessay dispatches them with almost greedy brilliance.

Decca cast a mezzo (Cecilia Bartoli) and a counter-tenor (Brian Asawa) as the warring brothers. Bartoli is the great stylist, but Asawa is by no means outclassed. Sabbatini makes much of Mitridate's death scene and Rousset is a highly sympathetic conductor.

JOHN HIGGINS

ORCHESTRAL

BEETHOVEN

Piano Concertos Nos 1-5
Brendel/VPO/Rattle
Philips 462 781-2 (3 CDs)
★ ★ ★ £38.99

THESE recordings of the Beethoven piano concertos are sophisticated, discerning and tasteful, with nothing exaggerated, so it all sounds exactly as it should. But listen more closely and you realise the subtleties of inflection in No 3, the barely perceptible tempo modifications in No 4 and the unforced authority of the *Emperor*. Add to that the sparkling wit of the rondo finales to Nos 1 and 2 and Alfred Brendel's superbly meticulous pianism and you have a set to treasure.

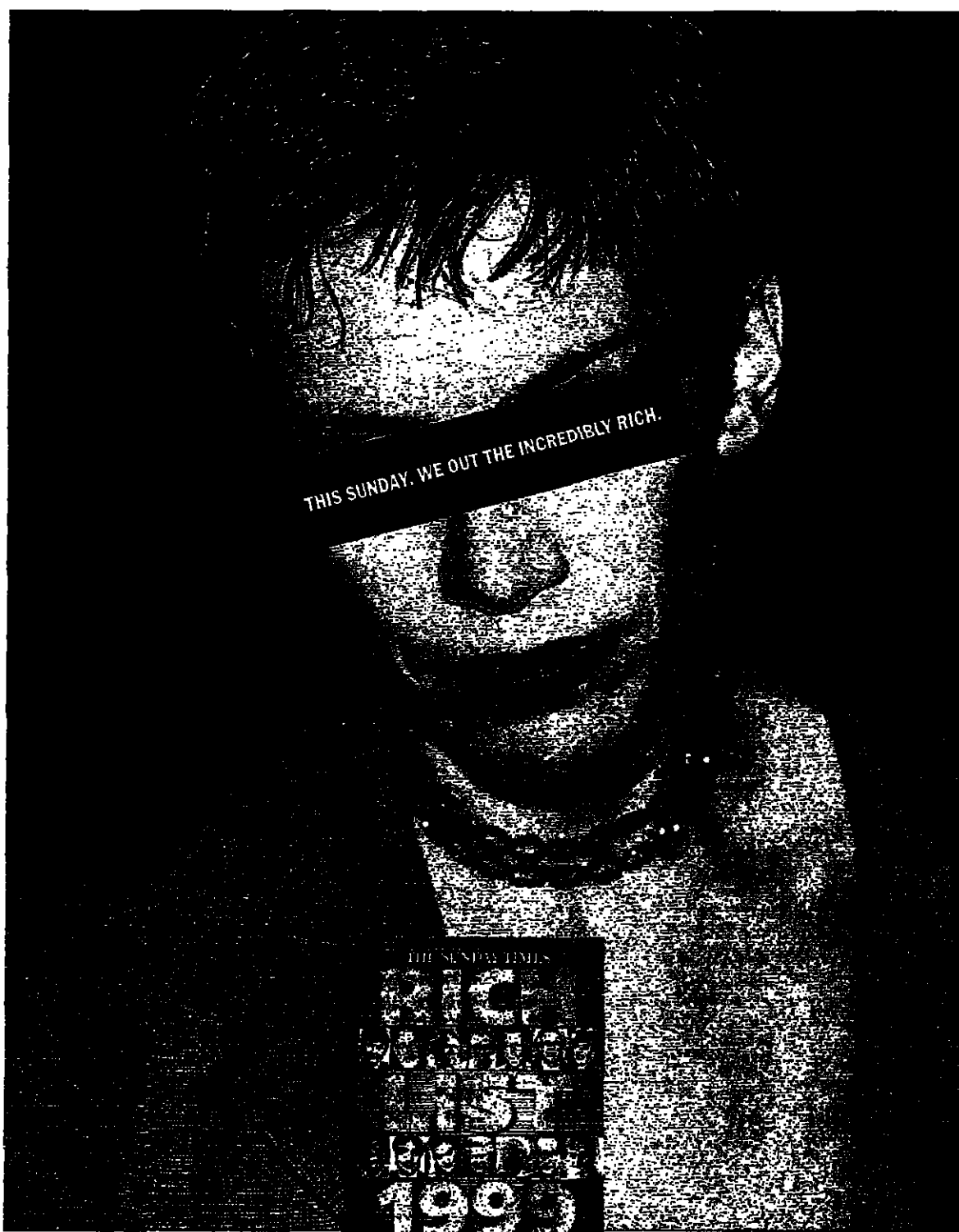
Such joy radiates from the partnership with Simon Rattle and the Vienna Philharmonic, and such seamless give and take from two distinctive but eminently compatible musical personalities, that it is easy to see why Brendel should be content for this fourth go round to be, as he says it will, his last.

BARRY MILLINGTON

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Semele

Hardel



Bach to nature

It has never been cooler to be a counter-tenor, never more remunerative to be a mezzo. But when did you last hear a really great contralto? The answer may well be the last time you played a CD by Nathalie Stutzmann, for the French contralto visits England all too seldom, and here is a truly rare voice.

Her repertoire stretches over at least 400 years of music, but her voice and spirit are never more exquisitely tuned than in the Baroque era. Here, her early training as a bassoon player tells in every sinuously inflected line, every perfectly judged breath. And when the composer is Bach, and instrumental and vocal lines intertwine, then the symbiotic relationship is unusually compelling.

Imagine, then, the "contented rest" of Bach's cantata *Vergnügte Ruh* breathed out in the voices of oboe d'amore (Anthony Robson), violin (Catherine Mackintosh, leading the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and Stutzmann herself. Only the following contemplation of the world as a "house of sin" could have broken the spell; and here Stutzmann's sharp-etched rhythms tightened the tension before it was released once again in the sighs shared with violins and violas as the "wayward heart" wandered, lost

CONCERT

OAE/Stutzmann
Baroque

without the ballast of its continuo bass.

Susan Sheppard's eloquent cello came into its own, though, underlining Stutzmann's ardent goodnight to the world in the cantata *Ich habe genug*. Stutzmann's contralto traced and paraphrased the valedictory *Song of Simeon* with rare sensitivity, graphically using vowels to lift the melodic line, and consonants to propel it. It was a moving tribute to the late Francis Baines, double-bass player with the OAE, who was commemorated in this concert.

Robson took up a reedy oboe da caccia here, after what seemed an exhausting performance with Mackintosh of Bach's Concerto in C minor for Oboe and Violin. This was a brisk, no-nonsense performance of a work which deserves a little more space. But the Corelli Concerto Grosso Op 6 No 1, which began the evening, lived dangerously without compromising the music, and revealed the OAE's strings at their best.

HILARY FINCH

BOOKS

American in Paris, and London, and ...

Since the beginning of time there have been about half a billion Americans. On the date of Independence in 1776, there were roughly two million people living in the East Coast colonies and the vast uncharted territories beyond. Today there are approximately 270 million, and we will know the exact number shortly after the official census that takes place next year (a decennial nose count is mandated by the US Constitution).

From this historical pool of humanity, the creators of the *American National Biography* have selected 17,500 individuals. Each subject receives a write-up of between 750 and 7,500 words, and the profiles are spread over 24 hefty volumes. The principal criterion — a helpful one — is that the candidate must have expired before 1996. Citizenship is not a prerequisite, but "significant influence" is expected, so some names appear which are customarily associated with other lands. W. H. Auden has an entry (though he did become an American citizen after the war) and so does Peter Sellers, who never thought of changing citizenship. For a nation which is made up of immigrants, transients and a free-flowing population, citizenship would be an unworkable restriction.

Not since putting a man on the Moon has an American organisation undertaken such an ambitious logistical project.

RAYMOND SEITZ

AMERICAN NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY (24 vols.)
Eds. John A. Garraty and Mark C. Carnes
OUP, £1500
ISBN 0 19 520635 5

The inspirational authority for the task was the American Council of Learned Societies, an umbrella confederation of academic associations founded in 1919. There are 61 member groups running the gamut from the African Studies Association to the Sonneck Society for American Music. The ACLS published the country's first biographical dictionary in the 1930s, and although annual supplements followed, the content and tone of the earlier compendium were considered, by the end of the century, woefully out of date.

From its position at the apex of America's intelligentsia, the ACLS was able to exploit the academic network of the United States. Under the direction of managing editor Paul Betz, some 200 senior and associate editors divided into 19 categorical task forces. These committees selected the subjects, commissioned the essays from 6,100 contributors and completed the final review. They were supported by ranks of

copy editors and fact-checkers at the Oxford University Press in North Carolina. Money came from the ACLS's own fund-raising as well as grants from the Mellon and Rockefeller Foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The new *Biography*, according to Stanley Katz, the President Emeritus of the ACLS, is the product of the "often invoked, but rarely manifest, scholarly community".

In an era of sometimes cacophonous political correctness, the editors have made a judicious effort to redress the balance between white males, who dominated the earlier biographical dictionary, and women and minorities, who were frequently neglected. Sacagawea, who barely rated a mention before, is here given full treatment, not only for her exploits as guide on the Lewis and Clark expedition to the Northwest Territories, but for her own life as well (we learn, for example, that she married a Shoshone with the unfortunate name of "Jerk Meat").

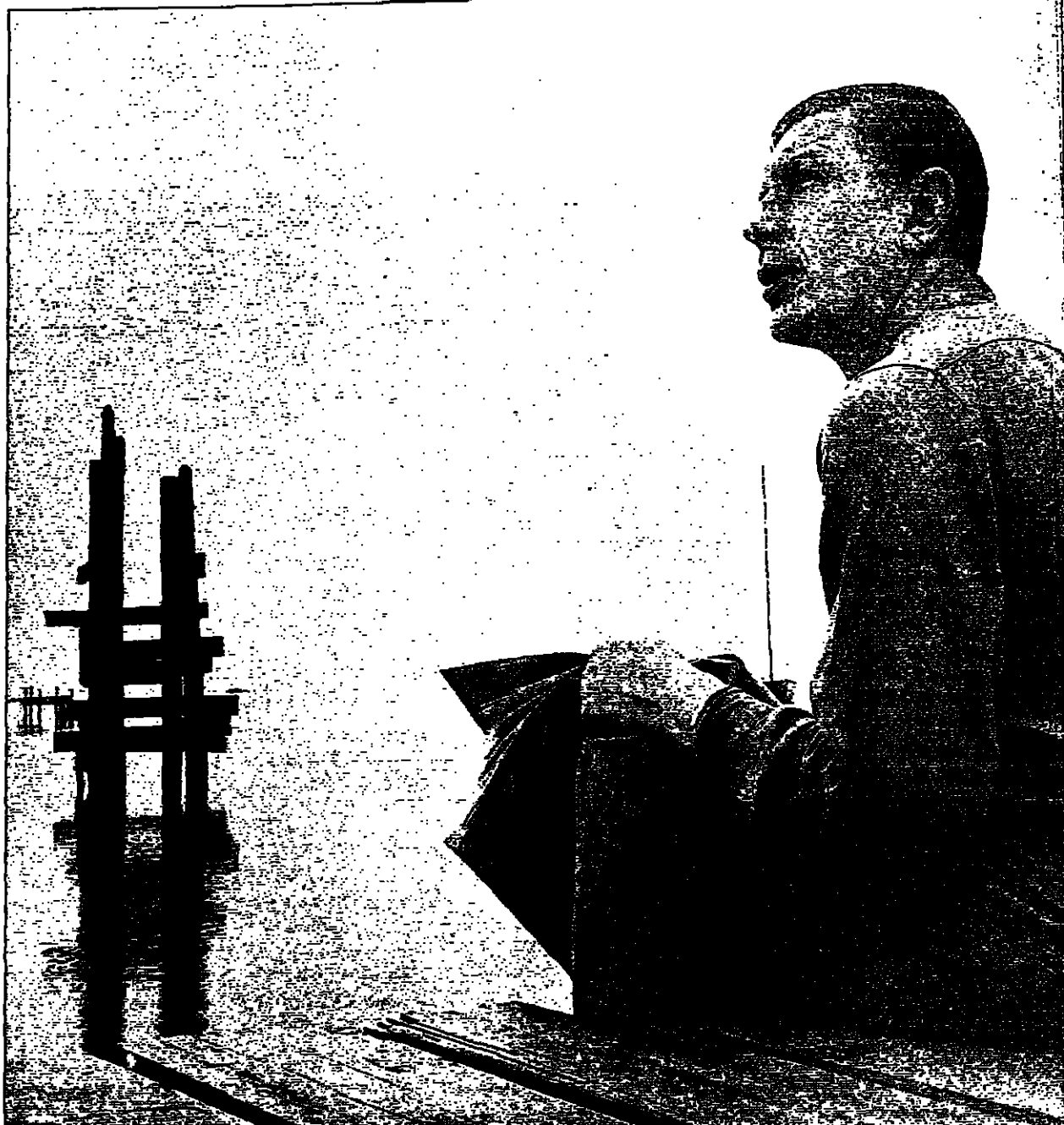
Charleston, the outstanding black baseball star of the prewar Negro League, is given long overdue recognition. So, too, Martha Ballard whose ordinary life as an 18th-century midwife would have faded into oblivion had it not been for her valuable diaries. More questionable, perhaps, is the inclusion of Benjamin Franklin's common law wife, Deborah, except that she

signed her letters to her travelling husband with the words, "Your a feck shonet wife".

These volumes are an absorbing panorama of the long, colourful American parade. As expensive reference works they naturally belong in schools and libraries, and the succinct bibliographies that appear at the end of each entry are a scholar's feast. In a way, this is a pity, because the essays are well written and often entertaining, and the *Biography* would be perfectly suitable for the bedside table were it not for the weight. The pages are strewn with little nuggets.

Take, for example, the profile of George Jessel (1898-1981), the vaudeville comic who turned down the lead role in *The Jazz Singer*. In the same year as the movie appeared (1927), Jessel made a different contribution to life and art. Having mixed a mid-morning tomato drink for himself in a Palm Beach bar, he offered a taste to a Philadelphia socialite named Mary Brown Warburton, who "promptly spilled it down the front of her white gown, thereby christening herself and the drink 'Bloody Mary'".

American National Biography represents such a colossal effort that it probably never would have taken flight without the psychological imperative of the looming millennium. But its publication now is indeed something to celebrate.



Manhattan transfer: W. H. Auden emigrated to New York in 1939 and became an American citizen in 1946

A light shone on family history

Andrew O'Hagan on the family that built Scotland's lighthouses

Victorian fathers cast long shadows. There was something sinister, even patently paternal in the neatly patterned in the dream and fevers.

This was also true for Gosses' acquaintance Robert Louis Stevenson, a brilliant writer and a creature of strong fathers, who — to the morning of his death — allowed those fathers to blink in and out of his life. "The atmosphere of his father's stern industry," wrote Stevenson in his unfinished novel *Weir of Hermiston*, "was the best of Archie's education. Assuredly it did not attract him; assuredly it rather repelled and depressed. Yet it was still present, unobserved like the ticking of a clock, an arid ideal, a tasteless stimulant in the boy's life."

However arid the ideals of Stevenson's father — and there was always something of the family in his dry cough — the truth must be that their interests were not remote from his character as a writer. Their hard work as engineers, their mastery of weather, mathematics and the high sea, find a strange relative in the sentences of Robert Louis Stevenson, their landlubbing son and grandson and nephew and cousin. In this book, Bella Bathurst has found a way to al-

low the Stevensons to stand for themselves and yet she also allows for the possibility that we might read, in the story of the fathers, a crucial story of the storytelling son.

Bathurst has a natural gift for narrative. She has a not-un-Stevenson-like attentiveness: she catches as much with the ear as the eye. And so we enter into a bold and tender story. Louis's grandfather Robert Stevenson, "a slave to self-improvement", built the Bell Rock lighthouse, off the coast of Arbroath, in 1807. It was a massive undertaking: to build a light on a dangerous crag, using thousands of tons of stone, in the worst of weather and with no great public enthusiasm for the job.

Robert Stevenson is half Abraham, half King Canute; he has a God-fearing resilience as he squares up to the fury of God's elements. He seems to have been a man who was almost overcome with a sense of public duty, and overcome too with a sense of the symbolic value of lighthouses. Bathurst is not the type to be blinded by romance, however. "The fact that he was to be proved right," she says, "makes him admirable, it does not always make him likeable."

You detect more sympathy for Robert's son, Alan, who took up a secret pen and made

application fails; where the heart gives out.

Louis's father, Thomas — Alan's brother — was never workshy either. Yet he, too, had a secret hankering to be a writer. He crumbled in the face of his father's objections — as his own son would not — and lost himself in note-taking on the subject of waves and "heavenly writers". There is an anxiety of influence detectable in each of these men: each if them wanted to live up to his father and yet find a way to live as himself. Robert Louis Stevenson broke excruciating waves of disappointment over his father's head: he turned his back on lighthouses, but in the squal, he seems to have found his writer's voice.

Bella Bathurst has built a lamp herself: it illuminates the work of a literate hero, a family business, a habit of mind and a Scottish period. She gives us a sense of the lives of the keepers and provides a eulogy for a kind of life now going or gone: all the lighthouses, including the ones built by her Stevensons are now unmanned.

Bella Bathurst is what people used to call the genuine article: from the summit of this terrific first book she looks to become one of the best biographers of her generation. In the meantime, you might do yourself a favour and fold *The Lighthouse Stevensons* into your knapsack.

THE LIGHTHOUSE STEVENSONS
By Bella Bathurst
HarperCollins, £15.99
ISBN 0 00 257006 8



a friend of Wordsworth, but who toed the line quite spectacularly, by building the lighthouse at Skerryvore. The light stood 138 ft above the first course of stonework: a magisterial construction which threw its light over some of the most treacherous sea imaginable.

Bathurst has qualities of restraint and is Scottishly parsed in the face of the facts: she cleaves ever to the sunnier side of detail and only seldom to emotion. But she has what the best biographers always have — a certain love for her subject. There's an attractive duality at the centre of her affections: she adores the industry of these Stevensons, yet she is mindful of the places where

Hit by a bolt from the blue

A strange force is randomly reconstructing the minds of ordinary folk in Sixties San Francisco. In the heyday of the hippy drug-culture. When a flash of cosmic blue light strikes men and women (and even roaming animals) it quickens their DNA, sharpening their faculties and magnifying their physical powers so that they become a superhuman race of the future — "the Blues". Driven into violent action by their heightened awareness, each Blue becomes bent obsessively on realising his or her deepest yearnings: great sex, harmony with nature, abiding compassionate love, or (occasionally) brutal psychotic violence.

One of their number takes on the role of leader, galvanising the Blues into a cult, inventing rituals of mixing and drinking each other's blood to enhance their mystical powers. The woman he was coupled with at the moment the blue light struck becomes the

cult's sex goddess, the child conceived in that instant grows to amazonic strength and wrestles bears in the wilderness. But among them stalks Grey Man — a zombie created when the blue light struck a man dying of cancer. At the moment of his death, Grey Man's quest is the destruction of all other Blues, a task he pursues with grizzly determination, dismembering and mutilating Blues and friends of Blues as he tracks them down.

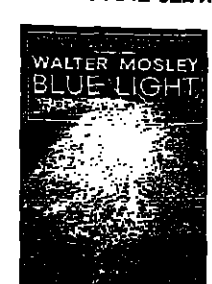
The narrator of this tale is not a Blue, but Chance, a mixed race graduate student, caught up in the Blue world. After abandoning his research on Thucydides, Chance bears witness to the extinguished hopes of the Blues. If we are to believe his tale, it is he who helps finally to annihilate Grey Man and who rescues a Blue remnant to see another day.

Walter Mosley's earlier mysteries, with their quirky black hero-narrator Easy

LISA JARDINE

BLUE LIGHT

By Walter Mosley
Serpent's Tail, £9.99
ISBN 1 85242 611 X



Rawlins, have something of a cult following. He specialises in getting inside the minds and lives of North American itinerant blacks and white trash — living lonely, confused lives in a penumbra world of pain and disappointment on the fringes of affluent society. He writes compelling

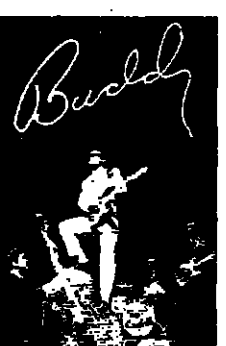
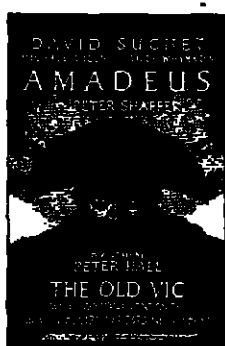
gritty, real-life dialogue and crafts his plots around closely observed detail of life as a social outsider.

Blue Light is a new venture into "science fiction". In fact, "science" has very little to do with this fiction, unless we mean the chemistry which produces the substances beloved of drug-users. In *Blue Light*, Mosley details meticulously the grainy, disorientated insanity of being high of something-or-other in San Francisco during the Vietnam War years. He describes with mesmerising clarity the hallucinatory twilight world of nightmares and euphoria inhabited by losers and drifters who move from one fix to another. The blood-exchanges, lozings and brutalities merge into a single incoherent dreamworld. We cannot even be sure that the entire "History" is not a product of Chance's debilitated mind, since at the end of the book he is confined to a state mental hospital, registered as a paranoid schizophrenic.

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This week *The Times* offers readers the chance to buy two tickets for the price of one for some of the best shows in London.



SHAKESPEARE IN LAUGHS:
Rivalling funny romp through 37 plays

Amadeus, Old Vic, SE1. Peter Shaffer's wickedly funny play currently starring David Suchet. Offer valid from April 12-May 31 Monday-Thursday evenings at 7.30pm and matinees on Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30pm (at 3pm from April 19). Tickets normally £32.50 each.

Blood Brothers, Phoenix Theatre, WC2. Winner of the Olivier Best Musical production award. Offer valid from April 12-June 30 Monday-Friday evenings at 7.45pm and matinees on Thursday at 3pm and Saturday 4pm. Tickets normally £32.50 each.

An Inspector Calls, Garrick Theatre, WC2. Winner of 19 awards, the National Theatre production of J.B. Priestley's thriller stars William Gaunt. Offer valid Monday-Thursday evenings at 7.45pm from April 12-May 15. Tickets normally £29.50 each.

The Woman in Black, Fortune Theatre, WC2. Susan Hill's frightening ghost story, now in its tenth year. Offer valid Monday-Thursday evenings at 8pm from May 1-June 30. Tickets normally £23.50 each.

Buddy, Strand Theatre, WC2. Rock'n'roll musical of The Buddy Holly Story. Offer valid Tuesday-Thursday evenings at 8pm, Friday evenings at 8.30pm and Sunday matinees at 4pm from April 12-May 31. Tickets normally £27 each (Tues-Thurs and Sun mats) and £30 each Friday evenings.

The Reduced Shakespeare Company, Criterion Theatre, W1. The longest-running comedy in the West End includes all 37 of the Bard's plays. Offer valid for Tuesday-Friday evenings at 8pm and matinees on Thursday at 3pm, Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 4pm from April 12-June 30. Tickets normally £25 each.

There is a £2 transaction fee per booking.

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CHANGING TIMES

BOOKS

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Washed ashore in a bomb-damaged land

The scarring runs deeper than the flattened landscape
in Philip Casey's novel, set in postwar London

The water star is a reflection, imperfect, but beautiful in itself. Its dark, shimmering image shivers in a breath of wind, or is obscured by the observer's shadow in the moon, but that mutability, that elusiveness, is part of its arresting mystery. Lean down too close to the pool and it will appear to vanish altogether.

Philip Casey's second novel, *The Water Star*, works in the same way. Casey is a poet and a playwright; he has a poet's delicate ear and a playwright's eye for detail. The tale that unfolds in this thick, satisfying volume is not particularly complex — any more than the circumstances of any of our lives are complex, which is to say, infinitely and infinitesimally so. London, 1950: the city is a bomb site, a building site, and there is plenty of work for Brendan and Hugh Kinsella, natives of Co. Mayo. Father and son, Brendan's wife and Hugh's mother are dead, buried near the blue

Irish mountain that haunts them in their grey London days. Croghan Kinsella.

The city separates them. Each longs for home, for the past, finds himself strange even when not among strangers. The London of Hugh's imagination is nowhere to be found: "When he was a child, he had always thought that London had no hills. He remembered this as he walked up the incline of Tollington Park, past the large Protestant church and into Everleigh Street, where the Irish faithful were congregating. Hugh was perversely proud that his church had a corrugated iron roof, in contrast to its grand Protestant neighbour. No matter that Catholic churches in Ireland were of good stone and slate, the poverty of this one made him feel a cut above the Prods, morally speaking."

But when Hugh's longing manifests itself in a vision of his dead mother, Brendan hides his own sense of loss in a fear of his son's

madness, and Hugh goes his own way.

He finds a home with Elizabeth Frampton, who takes him into her house and her bed. She has another lodger, Karl, a German, whose family was killed in Hamburg in the war. He manages his bereavement by carving their effigies as he sits in the garden — and by loving Elizabeth. When she takes to Hugh he is faced with another loss. Brendan, meanwhile, finds comfort after his son's disappearance with Sarah, an Irish woman sent away from home when she became pregnant with her daughter Deirdre. Through the interweaving and the overlapping of these relationships, Casey examines how human nature is shaped by sorrow; how people will find a way — sometimes, it seems, despite themselves — to take comfort from others, even among the ruins.

Casey's technique, too, is one of interweaving and overlapping. He



Erica Wagner

will tell the same story more than once, each time from a different vantage point: Hugh's own experience of his arrival at Elizabeth's house and then Karl's vision of the events. Of course, it is not the "same story" that's told, which is precisely the point. As an idea in the abstract this might seem laboured; in the novel, however, it works seamlessly, simply function-

ing as it is meant to and unfolding the story like a fan.

Karl works as a labourer, too. Elizabeth trusts he will find work for Hugh. As Hugh sees it: "Elizabeth glanced at him across the table. He had been watching a stray hair which had wandered from her well-brushed head. As their eyes met, she looked back again to Karl. 'Can you fix a start for Hugh on Monday?' Karl sized him up. 'If he's willing to work hard, Brickie's mate, Hugh.'"

And then, as Karl perceives it: "Can you fix a start for Hugh on Monday?" She asked quietly. Of course, Elizabeth had to ask, no matter what complication or indecision to those he despised that it might entail. It was against his interest, he knew simply by the way she spoke of the young man; but Elizabeth had made a request. He pretended to consider. "If he's willing to work hard, Brickie's mate, Hugh."

This style, formal yet flexible, opens the novel out, and the different perspectives made these hard-science lives — death is a frequent visitor to this household and comfort too easily found in a bottle of wine or whiskey — vivid.

Casey's tale comes to the reader bearing praise from Sebastian Barry, and, like the author of *The Steward of Christendom* and *The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty*, he has an unselfish and affectionate view of Ireland and the Irish.

His language is more austere than Barry's; his characters aren't given to speechifying and a large part of his skill is in the way he digs through their inarticulacy to find the real emotion beneath.

The Water Star is a graceful, gentle novel that does not shy from the truth. Is its metaphor of lives rebuilt from rubble — whether the detritus of the past or the structures shattered by the Blitz — too pat? Perhaps, sometimes. But reading along one finds oneself thinking, yes, but that's just how things are. That seems a small thing, but it is a fine compliment to a work of fiction.

THE WATER STAR
By Philip Casey
Picador, £14.99
ISBN 0 330 371 908



Blame it on the theorist

SEVERAL DECEPTIONS

By Jane Stevenson

Jonathan Cape, £14.99

ISBN 0 224 05939 4

JANE STEVENSON'S first collection of fiction consists of four novellas with the common theme of deception. A professor undercut by his own intellect amusingly blames all the problems in his life on the semiotics nut Umberto Eco. In another story, an international lawyer plays at terrorism. But the most finely tuned quartet tells the story of Judy O'Grady, an Irish woman who changes her name to Ananda and becomes a novice in a Tibetan monastery. Things heat up during a spell in Simla, the former British hill-station in northern India, when the unlikely heroine unexpectedly warms to the dying embers of colonialism. Stevenson's careful plotting and attention to detail prove she is a new voice worth listening to.

Into the fire

THE FAREWELL ANGEL

By Carmen Martin Gaité

Harvill, £9.99

ISBN 1 85046 358 4

LEONARDO is released from his Madrid prison cell on the same day as he learns his parents have died in a car crash. He returns home with a full wallet, but his heart is heavier still. First he reminisces in a sepia-toned haze, churning up memories which eventually lead him to a white house on the edge of a cliff where his grandmother raised him. But it is not until he meets the building's new owner that he is fully redeemed. This is essentially a novel about storytelling. Carmen Martin Gaité, a bestselling author in her native Spain, weaves traditional childhood tales into her own complex and peculiar one.

Alter ego

ALLAN STEIN: A Novel

By Matthew Stadler

Fourth Estate, £10

ISBN 1 84115 107 6

A SUCKER for small boys, Matthew Stadler swaps Searle for Paris after an affair with a 15-year-old pupil switches from fantasy to reality. For the sheer hell of it, rather than disguise, he changes his name to that of his best friend back home: the museum curator Herbert Widener. "Herbert" is pathologically excitable and attracts trouble with the ease of an Enid Blyton heroine, and within 30 pages he becomes embroiled in a mystery involving a set of drawings which feature Allan Stein, the little nephew of Gertrude. Slipping in and out of fact and fiction with apparent effortless, Matthew Stadler's writing is slick, funny and ever so stylish.

ALEX O'CONNELL

All at sea (and loving it)

Tim Severin delights in a voyage on one of the greatest sailing ships ever built

Thanks to the State Literature Officer of Western Australia, I found myself last month in the small coastal town of Albany running a "Writer's Workshop". Among the local students was a tip of passage: a tall, well-spoken Englishman, rather old-fashioned and — I would guess — in his late fifties. He was explained, on his way round the world in a sailing boat travelling in slow stages. I hoped to pick up a few tips about writing up his logbook, and perhaps there would be an account of his voyage. I guessed he was retired and fulfilling his lifelong ambition. I asked him his favourite sailor — "Eric Newby" was his immediate reply.

— and other Newby fans — will delight in *Learning the Ropes*. The book is the sequence of Newby's photographs taken during his class 1938-39 voyage as an apprentice sailor aboard the four-masted barque *Moshulu*. The sea-struck Newby was 18 years old when he signed on to the round-the-world trip to South Australia, outward bound with a bad of some ball in which he Belfast docked had concealed two dead dogs as a pungent joke, and

LEARNING THE ROPES

By Eric Newby

John Murray

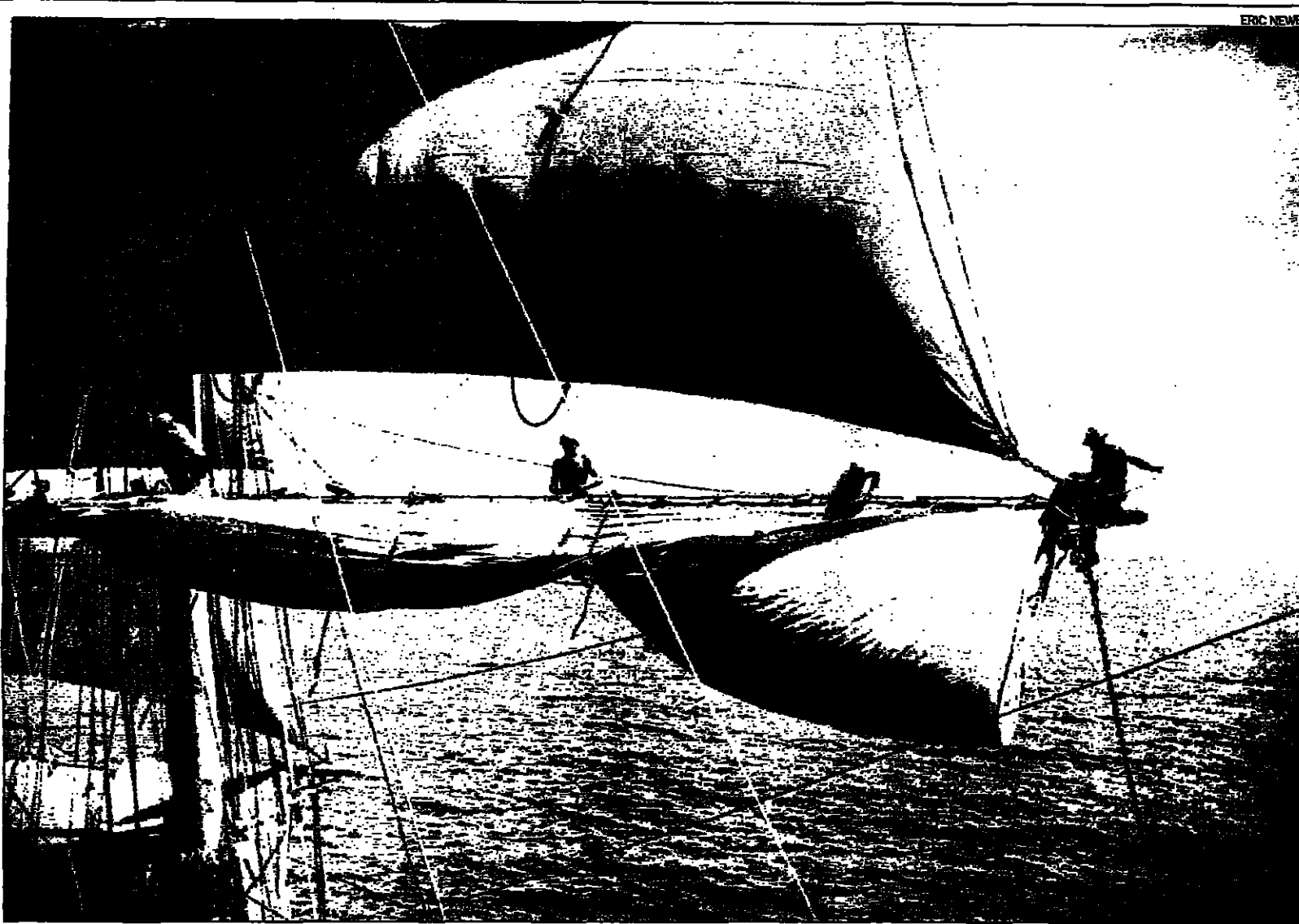
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back to Europe with a load of wheat. Newby told us the tale initially in *The Last Grain Race* and, more recently, in *What the Traveller Saw*. But no matter — now he gets the chance to show us his photographs, and the publishers have done him proud.

The pictures are thoughtfully presented. They take us from the initial preparations in dock, around the Cape of Good Hope, to the drab little Australian wheat ports, and back home around the Horn with a ferocious gale to contend with. The photographs



After 24 days at sea, the *Moshulu* rounded the northwest African coast — the man on the weather yard-arm is hauling out the head of the sail

are superb. Anyone who has known how tired one can be after hours of hard labour at sea must admire the gritty persistence with which the young photographer kept going with his folding bellows Zeiss Super Ikonta. The pictures from aloft show *Moshulu's* deck slathered in white foam as the waves break over her in a gale must have required real dedication — one hand on the camera button and the other hanging on for dear life. For all his gentle, wry, self-deprecating humour, Newby has a sinewy determination without

which we would never have gone with him *Slowly Down the Ganges* or on *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush*. The photos give the impression not of tall, graceful elegance, but of brute industrial strength at sea. *Moshulu* and her sister ship bulk carriers were, it is claimed, the most powerful sailing ships ever built. They were also utilitarian to the point of starkness. There was no flourish, no panache, just plain hard-nosed money-making if operating costs could be cut to the bone. So the crews were minimal

and stingily paid — Newby got his job by return post because apprentices were cheap labour. He received ten shillings a month. The sailmaker, a master craftsman with 43 years' experience, got £7. The Captain did not do much better: he got £20 a month, "which didn't seem much for such a lonely position of responsibility".

Details like this, well-researched and deftly put, are packed into Newby's characteristically charming foreword and the captions to his pictures. They demonstrate how

he loved every moment of his trip — well, almost every moment. Oddly enough, doing the washing-up for the entire crew using half a kerosene can of hot water per session was, it seems, "far preferable" to cleaning the lavatories. One doesn't imagine that the apprentices left much on their plates. Newby makes the point that one common feature among the young seamen was their constant hunger. So it is the ultimate quirk that *Moshulu* is now tied up in Philadelphia and converted to a floating restaurant.

IN metro THIS SATURDAY

Welcome to the age of Witspell: Peter Ackroyd talks about his new novel, *The Plato Papers*, a satire set 2,000 years in the future.

ALSO: boxers, squatters and bikers — *Adventures in Other England* by Nik Cohen; and God is a kamikaze pilot — the weird fictional world of Bo Fowler

A myth the size of a mountain

W his Crazy Horse (Ti-Sunka-Witko) figured prominently among the thousands of Native Americans who taught us the meaning of the term, "Lone Bighorn", almost every other fact about him is open to debate. This is because he never once spoke for the public record, or allowed himself to become the sort of cigarette-savvy who signed autographs at Wild West shows for a dollar apiece. As Larry McMurtry argues in this fine meditation on the most elusive figure in American history, Crazy Horse wasn't shy of attention. It just didn't like to spend too much time with the sort of people who keep score.

Most trifling facts about Crazy Horse were collected in interview with elderly Sioux well into the 20th century and, as a result, almost everything historians know about him has to be qualified by that innocuous adverb, "probably". He was probably born a member of a Oglala wing of the Great Sioux nation in 1840, near what is now Bear Butte, South Dakota. He probably led the Sioux into some of their famous Bighorn victories, such as the battles of the Bozeman and the Rosebud. And he was probably responsible for leading Captain William Fetter and his troops beyond

SCOTT BRADFIELD
CRAZY HORSE
By Larry McMurtry
Penguin, £12.99
ISBN 0 297 84242 0



the safe perimeters of Fort Pike Kearney in December, 1866, where they were succinctly slaughtered.

Neither high-born nor self-congratulatory, Crazy Horse was the closest thing to a populist that the Sioux Nation ever possessed. As a youth, he displayed a keen talent for horsemanship, and when he wasn't hunting buffalo, he was engaged in vision-quests, seeking instruction from the spirits he admired more than people. On one such mystic expedition, he was told to live the simple life, to shun adornments and devote himself solely to the weakest members of his tribe. Accord-



The enormous statue of Crazy Horse in South Dakota

ing to most accounts, he lived faithfully to these precepts for the rest of his life.

Crazy Horse did not surrender to the white generals so much as to the white weather. And when he turned over his arms after the terrible winter of 1876-77, he learnt from experience that deal-making with Washington was neither his, nor his people's, best suit.

After negotiating for hunting privileges which were immediately revoked, he displayed his victory by refusing to betray his people, and eventually developed a following among the youngest warriors of his tribe. This popularity was noted not only by Washington, but by Sioux leaders as well, most of whom considered Crazy Horse a threat. As McMurtry sees it, Crazy Horse was disliked by politi-

cians on both sides for not being sufficiently political. In the end, it cost him his life.

On September 6, 1877, Crazy Horse was slain by an unremarkable private named William Gentes while resisting efforts to incarcerate him. As should be expected from such a mythical life, nobody agrees on what happened that day, or has any idea where Crazy Horse's parents eventually disposed of his body.

Today, though, the world's largest sculpture is being dynamited into the Black Hills of South Dakota. It has taken more than half a century to complete and when it is finished it will depict not only the head of Crazy Horse, but also the only indisputable fact about him: he may not be clearly remembered, but he was definitely larger than life.

Nimble-fingered

W hen we speak of the Holocaust, the images summoned are mostly those of the concentration camp. Wladyslaw Szpilman's powerful memoir, *The Pianist* (Gollancz, £12.99; ISBN 0 575 06708 X) supplies a whole other iconography, that of the Warsaw ghetto. A Jewish pianist, he managed to survive the ghetto and outside it in Warsaw on the run.

The most dramatic aspect of Szpilman's story comes in the war's final days when he was discovered by a German officer. On learning that he was a pianist, Wilm Hosenfeld persuaded him to play the Chopin Nocturne in C sharp minor. Hosenfeld then showed him where to hide and brought him food.

One can see why the Polish authorities had Szpilman's book withdrawn soon after its publication in 1946. His account of the "good Poles" who hid him may have been ideologically acceptable, but that of a "good German" wasn't. Yet the Hosenfeld section of the book is the least interesting. Far more arresting are his tableaux of ghetto life — the lice so inescapable they even penetrated the bread; a German officer's casual defecation of a dazed old man in the building opposite; the corpses who stare up at him

as he makes his way home each night.

The ghetto remains for most of us an unfathomable place. Szpilman describes the torment of confinement. He's also an artful guide to the differences between the Jews in the ghetto — not the homogeneous group of the Nazi imagination, but people whose pre-war status was reproduced during the war. Szpilman observes them from one of the ghetto cafés where he plays. He also recounts the sadism of the Jewish police and the daring of the underground to which he belonged.

Once he's been spirited out of the ghetto, the book becomes a desperate chronicle of hunger, loneliness and pessimism. Looking out on a bombed landscape, he imagines himself the last person alive. Twice he's on the point of suicide when capture seems imminent. The third time he swallows sleeping-pills but awakes the next day.

For me, this book had an added poignancy. The Chopin Nocturne which saved Szpilman's life was the same one which saved my mother's when she played it in Plazow concentration camp for Amos Goeth. What would Frédéric Chopin have made of that?

ANNE KARPf

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Bargains of the week: abiding memories in Devon; a gourmet gathering in Guernsey, the art of Van Dyck in Antwerp



PACK YOUR BAGS

A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices

BRITISH ISLES

ABBA are making a big noise in London again with the opening of *Mamma Mia*, featuring many of the group's songs. Top seats together with Friday and Saturday night at a central four-star hotel, plus dinner with champagne, are on offer from Theatrebreak. The package costs £219, with discounts available over the next two Bank Holiday weekends. Details: 01904 679999.

THE hymn *Abide With Me* caused more excitement than Abba when sung at Wembley Cup Finals, and the Rev Henry Lyke, who wrote it, can be remembered at the Berry Head Hotel, his former home overlooking the sea at Brixham, Devon. Two nights' din-

ner, B&B costs £96 with Sunvil UK for the next two weekends. Details: 0181-232 9788.

THE boat comes free, for a day at least, on holidays with Norfolk Broads Direct until May 23. Stay in apartments beside the river at Wroxham from £111 for a short break (£164 for a week) and a motor launch will be provided for a day. Details: 01603 782207.

GOURMETS can enjoy Guernsey's eating experience competition this month on a visit to a winning hotel, which includes a five-course meal the first night, seven the next and a rest on the third. The three-night break with Guernsey Travel Service costs £229, with return flights from Gatwick. Details: 0181-891 6020.

CHESTER can be explored at a saving this month with Goldenrail, which has dinner, B&B at the Queens Hotel for £49. Details: 01904 638973.

COTTAGES in Rosscorbery, Co Cork, are available for two weeks at the price of one from April 17 with Irish Ferries Holidays. The offer cuts the price for a fortnight to £63 if six are sharing. Travel by sea or air can also be arranged. Details: 08705 170000.

EUROPE

TUSCANY can be enjoyed at special prices, before the politicians and superstars arrive for their summer holidays. Crystal Premier Italy has reduced the price for a week in selected villas from the next two Saturdays to £249, based on five sharing, but including car hire and return flights from Gatwick. Or you can take two weeks for the price of one. Details: 0181-390 5554.

PRAGUE discounts are available this month from Travellers Czech: three nights' B&B cost from £289, including return flights from Heathrow, Stansted and Manchester. Details: 01959 540700.

GREECE's quieter islands and resorts are on special offer next month from Greek Options. Villa and apartment holidays cost from £199, including return flights from Gatwick on the first three Sundays. Details: 0171-233 5233.

ORCHIDS, violets and white narcissi burst into flower in the Massif Central in May and will make a perfect backdrop to walks with Belle France, available all month. A circular tour, walking about 11

miles each day and enjoying four nights half-board in three hotels in the Cévennes, costs from £336, with a short Channel crossing for car and passengers. Details: 01797 223777.

VAN DYCK will be the next artist, after Monet's success in London, to draw huge crowds in Antwerp to the largest exhibition of his works, and Prospect Music and Art Tours is planning ahead to spare enthusiasts long queues. Two-night breaks in four-star hotels, a timed entry ticket and return Eurostar travel will be available from May 18 from £199. Details: 0171-486 5705.

MALTA for a week for £159 — and with half-board — is on offer from Lunn Poly, with a flight from Gatwick on April 16. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

FREE flights are a promotion from Orient Lines for selected Aegean holidays combining a cruise and city break. The offer cuts the price for a week to £735, including five nights' full board on a cruise to Ephesus, Mykonos and Rhodes and two nights in a first-class hotel in Istanbul. The first trip begins with a BA flight from Heathrow on May 18. Details: 0171-409 2500.



In the heart of Prague, available on a three-night bargain

LONG HAUL

A RED SEA Discovery cruise, sailing on April 15, is available at huge discounts from Voyages of Discovery, even though the region is less troubled today than other parts of the world. Prices for outside cabins are reduced to £699 and for inside ones to £599, including full board and return flights to Crete for the ten-night trip to Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Details: 01293 433030.

A PARADISE isle at a dream price is on offer until June 30 from Thomas Cook Holidays. A fortnight at Langkawi Holiday Villas, Malaysia, costs £499, with return flights from Manchester, or £40 more from Heathrow. No meals included but because the Asian economies are still in trouble the cost of living is low. Details: 01733 418450.

FLORIDA without the kids comes cheap at the moment with Jetset. Families are the Disney state's most frequent visitors so, with children back at school, prices have been cut. Best deals are from Cardiff with return flights on April 23 and car hire costing from £149. Deals for less than £200, with flights from Gatwick and

Glasgow later this month also on offer and accommodation can be arranged. Details: 01342 338888.

THAILAND two-centenary holidays are on offer from Tradewinds, so you can sample the bustle of Bangkok for four nights and spending ten quieter ones at Pantaya resort hotel. The comes with flights from Gatwick. Details: 0870-751 0004.

ZIMBABWE tours are being reduced by £25 to waves until June 30, cutting the cost of a week's trip to £870. The package includes Saturday flights from Gatwick, B&B in hotel and the tour taking in Harare, Kariba, Hwange and Victoria Falls. Details: 0181-675 118.

All prices per person as shown on two sharing a room unless otherwise stated.

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needed to support the managing director and deputy managing director of leading travel and leisure pr agency. We are a medium sized company and the applicant must thrive on a challenge, have excellent organisational skills and enjoy working as a member of a lively and creative team. Word, Powerpoint, Excel and shorthand needed.

Applications in writing to: Fanny Armitage, BCB & Associates, 7 Westminster Palace Gardens, Arbury Row, London, SW1P 1RL

PA/Office Manager - package to £25,000

For small, friendly professional office in Mayfair dealing with country matters. Dynamic, young director needs a right hand person to help organise his professional and personal life. Must be flexible and able to work under pressure with fast, accurate audio typing, of which there is a great deal. Super position for a smart, well spoken, organised individual who offers commitment in return for fun. Fax CV with covering letter and current salary.

0171 409 1904

CREME DIRECT

PERMANENT APPLICANTS

We have a number of Senior Secretarial/PA permanent vacancies, salaries ranging £20-30,000, located in the West End, City and Middlesex areas. We require 60 wpm, Word for Windows and Excel. Powerpoint would be advantageous.

Temporary applicants: We are currently recruiting PA/Senior Secretaries with the following skills:
• 60 wpm • Word for Windows, Excel, Powerpoint
• Telemarketing/Customer Services
Interested and suitably experienced candidates call 0171 629 4462.

HW Executive

RENÉE MANN ASSOCIATES

Group Sec - Farringdon 15k + Benefits
2nd jobber with excellent organisational skills required for an ad agency. You need to be a team player with 50wpm typing, basic Powerpoint and Excel. Must be confident and bright.

P/T Receptionist - West London £9k
Internet design co. req. young receptionist, 8.30-1.30. Friendly, enthusiastic and easy going personality required.

AudioSec London Bridge £18k + Benefits
Working for a friendly group director. Fast typing of 70wpm and excellent Powerpoint and Excel preferred. Assertive team player with A level English required.

Efficient Sec/Receptionist Urgently required. Temp & Perm.

OFFICE OF ZAHA HADID

Busy architectural Design Company requires efficient Administration Assistant. Must be computer literate, organised and level headed.

Please apply in writing only to:
Victoria Nowell
Office of Zaha Hadid
Studio 9
10 Bowling Green Lane
London, EC1R 0BQ

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Vacancies exist for well-educated college leavers to work with young fun teams of Europeans through to more experienced Secretaries and PAs for Associate Partners, Partners and Equity Shareholders.

All positions require fast accurate Audio/VP skills 60wpm.

For full details and an immediate interview call 0171 709 3700 or fax CV on 0171 481 2115. Out of hours: 0850 878888 (AA Agt)

CREME DIRECT

PA to IT Director

Experienced and confident PA required for IT Director of dynamic worldwide media company located Sloane Square. Interest/experience in IT advantageous. Microsoft Office, shorthand, fast accurate typing and a cheerful manner would be an asset. Attractive package to include healthcare.

Please fax CV to
0171 581 5683
No Agencies.

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PA to Dir/Contract £20K pa
Professional PA for director in Arts Organisation. Liaison with senior clients, diary management. Strong secretarial skills essential - 60wpm min - s/h and audio desirable. Immediate start.

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Opportunity for enthusiastic secretary with previous admin skills to join a new dept within the Not For Profit Sector. 60 wpm. Access and Power Point. Ability to prioritise essential.

Secretary £16K pa
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For more details on these and other opportunities in the Charity and Not For Profit Sector, Call now quoting ref: LC 102

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RECEIPIST & SECRETARY based in Jewellery, PA to Director offering opportunity for FR. Phone 0171 629 0621

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Email: h.l@harringtonlowendes.co.uk

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

Executive Search Co. W1. Nicely spoken, well-presented person sought for young professional co. £12-14k. Age to mid-20s, £16-18k. Call Karen George Recruitment on 0181 789 0107.

EXPERIENCED PA/SEC

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TV - SEC

to £16,000. Experienced secretary to work for busy TV Executive + team in successful production co. Involved role for proactive candidate, must be organised, good under pressure + an effective communicator. 60wpm typing, W4Ws. This is an interesting secretarial support role but not a stepping stone into production.

TEL: 0171 629 0628

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THE TIMES
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18-20 MAY

Attend the only secretarial event that matters in the UK, dedicated to the needs of secretaries, PAs, office managers and administrators. Now in its 5th successful year the show provides a unique combination of motivating seminars, spectacular fashion shows and a one stop business shop with over 150 companies from the world of Recruitment, Technology, Office Products, Stationery, Business Travel and Corporate Hospitality exhibiting.

THE TIMES
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The Personal & Professional Development Seminars provide the opportunity to brush up on essential skills and learn new ones. Learn how to make "Office Politics" work for you. "Get the Best from Difficult People", "Deal with Aggression" and adopt a more pro-active role in "Making More Decisions on Behalf of your Boss." Discover the effects of information technology in "The Secretary's Role & The Future of IT" and become a planning wizard in "Planning in an Instant". For the first time ever, Sarah Cook PA to Phil Riley, MD of Heart Radio and Julie Flynn, PA to David Beckett, Head of Cash Payments at Barclays Bank will discuss their Manager/PA partnership and Karen Bishop, PA to Anita Roddick, The Body Shop will provide an insight on how she made it to the top.

THE TIMES
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18-20 MAY

Crème 99 takes place from 18th - 20th May at London, Olympia 2. ENTRANCE to the show is FREE. Seminars are excellent value at £15 per session. For the seminar and registration details call 01923 690662. For secretaries who want to get ahead. Get to Crème.

THE TIMES
Spring Crème '99
18-20 MAY

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Tuesday, 18 May - Thursday, 20 May 1999

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E-mail: tamph@haldane.co.uk
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The newly formed South East Regional Office works closely with Health Service organisations across the Region, helping monitor performance, improving standards of health care and services and supporting and facilitating key service developments.

The government's agenda for the NHS is both challenging and exciting. Joining now would give you the opportunity to see a regional office develop, and help shape the health service of the future. Effective leadership and development support is required to implement NHS Executive policy in key strategic areas.

You must have strategic vision with management and development skills to help stimulate innovation within the South East Region. You will be working closely with Health Authorities and Trusts in developing their strategic planning and organisation learning processes. You will act as an integral part of the policy, strategic and development framework.

To succeed in this role, you need substantial experience in strategic management and planning and development. With five to ten years' senior management experience at Board level, ideally within the Health Care sector, you will hold a health care related management or professional qualification. As well as demonstrating leadership you will have excellent communication skills with high interpersonal skills, particularly in influencing and negotiating.

The starting salary will be in the range £49,130 - £80,400, but more may be available for an exceptional candidate. The appointment will be made on permanent contract terms. Job shares and secondments will also be considered. Relocation expenses may be available.

For a job description and information pack please call our 24 hour Recruitment Line on 0171 725 5357 quoting reference number SE/10/99.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 23rd April 1999.

Provisional interview date: 12th May 1999.

As an equal opportunities employer, the Department of Health welcomes applications regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality. The Department operates flexible working patterns within a non-smoking environment.

NHS Executive
South East

THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Appointment of Chairman to Caledonian MacBrayne Limited

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited is a Government owned company which is responsible for part of the operation of a network of approved ferry services, which in the opinion of the Secretary of State are necessary to maintain or improve economic or social conditions in the Highlands and Islands. The Board currently consists of a Chairman, 5 other appointed non-executive members and 4 executive members. The Chairman's vacancy will arise with effect from 1 August 1999. The period of appointment is at the discretion of Ministers but will not normally be for less than 3 years, with the possibility of renewal.

Applications are invited from people with the background and skills necessary to be a dynamic and effective Chairman of Caledonian MacBrayne. The successful candidate will have a broad knowledge of Highlands and Islands issues as well as transport issues. He or she should also possess sound analytical, presentational and communication skills, excellent chairmanship ability and the capacity to provide direction, strong leadership, inspiration and motivation for Caledonian MacBrayne Board and staff.

The Chairman will need to be able to devote 1 1/2 days per week to the post. The post currently attracts a salary of £21,735 per annum.

If you think you have the necessary qualities and would like to be sent an application form and accompanying information package please contact:

Gerry Smith Esq, The Scottish Office Development Department, Area 2-E, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ. Tel: 0131 244 0844. Fax: 0131 244 0871.
E-mail: gerry.smith@scotland.gov.uk All correspondence will be treated strictly in confidence. Application forms should be submitted by 30 April 1999.

The Scottish Office is committed to the principles of equal opportunities and public appointments based on merit, independent assessment, openness and transparency of process.

Under the provisions of the Scotland Act 1998 this appointment will fall to be made by a member of the Scottish Executive.

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Head of Department - Investment Business Division

By working to encourage high standards of product quality within markets for financial services, the FSA has a high profile role to play in protecting investors' interests.

In this senior post, your contribution will be equally visible.

Leading a team of 170, currently organised as the PIA Firms Department, you will assume overall responsibility for monitoring the business conduct of some 4000 regulated firms - from sole trader independent IFAs to household name life insurance companies.

At the same time you will lead on a range of top level policy and management issues, and you will be proactive in spotting emerging trends and devising any appropriate regulatory response within an industry for which the needs and interests of customers should always be paramount.

Few roles will give you as broad an overview of the retail financial services market as this. Fewer still can offer the scope to make such a key contribution to its development. That is why we are looking to appoint a consummate professional, possibly from a compliance background, who

combines first class analytical, drafting, negotiation and presentation skills with the presence and managerial flair to take a large team through periods of significant change.

Someone, in short, who can lead from the top.

If that someone is you, please telephone 0171 269 6204 quoting reference GP412.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 26th April 1999.



Financial Services Authority

Finance Director

A fully qualified accountant is needed for a leading media communications agency based in central London. The company is expanding quickly and requires somebody who is flexible, intelligent and charismatic. The successful candidate will report to the Managing Director and will be part of a core team that drives the business forward. The role requires a balance of strategic and operational expertise. Neither advertising nor media experience is a requirement. The successful candidate will however have to demonstrate successful management of all key financial processes.

For the successful candidate there will be a substantial basic salary, profit share and the normal executive benefits.

As part of the recruitment process, all short-listed candidates will be psychometrically profiled.

Male or female applicants should send their CV's to:

Robert Willoughby
Strategic Resource Solutions
6th Floor
Nicholson's House
Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 1LD

Employment and Training Schemes for People with Mental Health Problems.

Director

Richmond Fellowship Work Schemes
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Are you someone with leadership, business development and management skills who wants to make a real social contribution? RFW Work Schemes is an independent charity, part of the Richmond Fellowship Group. A leader in the field of helping and empowering people with mental health problems.

Work Schemes helps more than 700 people at any one time in 15 projects. The Director has responsibility to lead and develop the business and keep the organisation as the acknowledged quality provider in its field.

If you think you have the skills, knowledge and commitment, then contact the Richmond Fellowship's Consultants, HACAS Consulting at: United House, North Road, London N7 9DP. Tel: 0171 809 8481 (24 hour), Fax: 0171 700 7599 e-mail: hacas@hacas.co.uk

For an informal chat, ask to speak to Derek Joseph or Sue Piper



HACAS Consulting
HOUSING - FINANCE - CARE

Richmond Fellowship is committed to equality of opportunity.

THE CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION (Lisbon)

Director of the U.K. Branch, London

Applications are invited for the post of Director of the Foundation's United Kingdom Branch in succession to the present Director Ben Whitaker who will be retiring in September 1999.

The Branch's work is organised around three main programmes for Arts, Education and Social Welfare, together with a special programme for Anglo-Portuguese Cultural Relations, in the UK and Ireland. Each of these four programmes is administered in detail by an assistant director. The candidate chosen is likely to have a substantial record of experience, leadership and achievement in one or more of the fields covered by the Foundation's main programmes, and sympathies which embrace the others. A knowledge of the Portuguese language would be an advantage though not essential for this post. The Foundation specialises in imaginative, innovative and cost-effective grant-making, which last year totalled some £2m. The appointment will be for five years in the first instance, which may possibly be extended by mutual agreement. Completed applications will be required by not later than 4th May 1999.

Persons interested in applying for this full-time post in central London should obtain the detailed job description which includes information about the Foundation and its work and about the salary and conditions of service, and which is available from the Bursar at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch), 96 Portland Place, London W1N 4ET. Tel. No. 0171 636 5313 ext. 216. Fax No. 0171 636 3421. The Foundation strongly believes in Equal Opportunities.

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We are now looking for two exceptional individuals to drive our business forward.

Both positions offer excellent career prospects and the opportunity to make a real impact.

Senior Brand Manager - Tyres

Ref: MTPLC/W/2

To take control of the group's flagship brand in the car sector. This role requires a high level of marketing and commercial acumen, plus the potential to develop rapidly into a Senior Management role. You will be a graduate with a marketing or commercial qualification with at least 5 years' relevant experience in marketing and brand management. Mobility for this position is essential.

Brand Manager - Maps and Guides

Ref: MTPLC/W/3

This role is pivotal to the success of our marketing strategy. A graduate with at least two years' marketing experience, you'll already have held a junior brand manager

position. Commercially astute with strong interpersonal skills, you're ready to make your mark with a progressive, global company.

Based in Hertfordshire, both positions require positive, dynamic individuals with innovative flair and astute commercial abilities. Background is not important but some experience in FMCG environments would be a real advantage, as would a working knowledge of French.

The company offers genuine career opportunities and excellent benefits which will reflect your skills and abilities to influence the process of change within the organisation.

In return, you can look forward to excellent career development opportunities and early advancement in a world-class environment.

To apply, please write enclosing your CV to: Carl A Moffat, Human Resources Department, Michelin Tyre PLC, Campbell Road, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST4 4EY.

Please quote the appropriate reference number.

Replies must be received by 30 April 1999.

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Sammons

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HR Manager - Investment Bank

To join a quality global institution. Ideally graduate educated and IPD qualified, this role calls for a proactive solutions based HR professional with extensive experience as an HR Manager in a similar City environment. Excellent benefits. Ref: 12262

HR Manager

Help reshape and develop the HR delivery in a prestigious Law practice. We seek a senior manager (probably graduate educated with IPD), to assume relationship responsibility for key client groups. Key involvement areas will include HR team management, manpower planning, strategy, Partner interaction, recruitment, appraisal process with some Learning & Development. Ref: 12187

Personnel Manager

This is a new appointment with a very substantial professional practice. Candidates must be of graduate calibre, IPD qualified and have at least 5 years successful Personnel delivery experience in a law firm or other professional practice environment. First class interpersonal, communication and people influencing skills are essential. Ref: 45949

HR Officers x2

To join leading City organisations. We seek graduate level individuals, GIPD or QBE, ideally with at least 3 years of solid experience as a Generalist in a busy, proactive HR environment, excellent PC skills and Employment Law knowledge. In both positions an across the board HR client support involvement will be expected. Ref: 12077

HR Analyst

Global Investment Bank requires a numerate individual with excellent Excel and Access skills. Key tasks will involve the maintenance and analysis of Global Headcount and Compensation information and report preparation, along with ongoing project based tasks. Excellent career development prospects. Ref: 12151

To discuss these and other HR opportunities, or to apply, please contact

Sammons HUMAN RESOURCES RECRUITMENT
POUPART HOUSE, 46 FISH STREET HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BR
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email: hr@sammons.co.uk http://www.sammonsgroup.co.uk

PIBT
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Freshwater Policy Officer

English Nature is the Government body which promotes the conservation of wildlife and natural features of England, employing over 700 people throughout the country.

Permanent appointment - Peterborough

English Nature is seeking an individual with drive and enthusiasm to develop and promote policies for wildlife conservation in the freshwater environment. The post will be part of a small team based in our national office in Peterborough. It will have a lead role in securing protection of rivers and lakes from agricultural diffuse pollution; manage a major partnership project on UK rivers; and be responsible for forging closer links with our 21 local teams and other national conservation bodies.

Qualifications: An honours degree and at least five years' experience in nature conservation or other policy-oriented career. Good communication skills and computer literacy are also required.

Salary: Salary range is £21,500 - £32,461. Starting salary is normally the minimum of the range, however more may be available for an exceptional candidate.

For further details and application form please contact Sandra Kennedy, Environmental Impacts Team, English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA. Tel: 01733 455202.

The closing date for completed applications is 30 April 1999.

Interviews will be held on 20 May 1999.

We have a no smoking policy within English Nature.

English Nature is working towards Equal Opportunities, and welcomes applications from all members of society.

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Tel. 33 1 476 68384 - Fax 33 1 462 24127



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Kestrel Network Sciences, Talbot House, High Street, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7AQ
Fax: 01344 762573
Email: klamb@kestrelnetwork.co.uk



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You're a successful manager who will take this high profile, highly responsible role further. Shaping our business plan and recommending strategies for growth, you'll seize and cultivate opportunities to expand our client base with a variety of organisations. You'll take the initiative, working alongside other Help the Aged teams, including Communications, to maximise opportunities but never compromising our high standards of care for which you will be responsible. Above all, you'll build long-term, productive relationships, internally and externally, to improve our business processes and ensure we stay ahead of social and technological advances.

You're someone who is excited by challenge, with the people-management skills to drive change and be a positive, constructive influence in any team. If fact, you'll need an impressive managerial track record, with at least 5 years' business management and budgetary control experience, 2 of which have been spent in a senior role. You will also have knowledge of Response Centres, their services and technology or experience of delivering services. In our demanding environment, you'll need the flexibility to handle pressure with confidence. PC literacy, including word processing and spreadsheets, together with proven numeracy, relating to budgets and forecasting, is essential.

Send a letter of application together with your CV to the Human Resources Department, Help the Aged, St. James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE. It is anticipated that interviews will take place on the 5th and 7th May 1999. We are committed to equal opportunities and operate a non-smoking policy. Closing date for applications 23 April 1999. As a Charity we are only able to reply to those selected for interview. If you do not hear from us within 5 weeks, we regret that your application has not been successful on this occasion.

Business Analyst – Strategy Development City

to £45,000 + Benefits

Linklaters is one of the world's leading law firms with a global network of offices in each of the world's major economies. We have recently joined with four leading law firms in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and Sweden to establish the leading international law practice for multi-jurisdictional advice.

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The role:

- Reports to the Managing Partner and Director of Strategy.
- Performs analysis on a range of strategic, marketing, financial and organisational issues.
- Assists with the business planning process and the analysis of performance.
- Researches various business development opportunities.

The person:

- Will be educated to degree level (2.1 or above).
- Will have had two or three years post university experience gained ideally in one of the leading strategy consulting firms.
- Will have a strong analytical background, focused around either business strategy, finance or marketing.
- Will have good interpersonal skills, drive and the enthusiasm to work in a stimulating and enjoyable environment, covering a range of cross-functional issues.

Interested candidates should apply in writing, quoting reference 497595 and enclosing a comprehensive copy of their CV to David Trapnell at Michael Page, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN or fax on 0171 831 2612 or e-mail: davidtrapnell@michaelpage.com

LINKLATERS
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Are you looking for a challenge?

Assistant Finance Director

London W6 Package to £53,418 + Benefits

A superb opportunity now exists at Notting Hill Housing Trust. The Trust manages over 14,000 homes, housing 40,000 people in the London area. The successful candidate will be working for one of the leading, progressive housing associations, committed to both your professional and personal development.

The Role

This challenging role will be reporting to the Group Director of Finance and Resources. Leading a team of dedicated professional finance managers in driving the financial performance of the group, you will influence the strategic development of the group, by assessing the viability of new business and identifying ways to improve existing business performance.

The Person

The successful candidate will be a qualified accountant, a good communicator with excellent leadership skills and have a significant track record of achievement at senior management level. You will be a commercial, entrepreneurial thinker with some practical experience of the capital markets, financial planning, preparing tenders and assessing new business initiatives.

For further information, contact our recruitment advisers, Hays Accountancy Personnel, at 14 Great Castle Street, London W1N 7AD quoting reference: M77NH03. Tel: 0171 436 5533. Fax: 0171 323 9752. E-mail: west-end-post@hays-ap.co.uk. Closing date for the response to this post is 23rd April 1999.

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PUBLIC SECTOR

Mobile IT/Telecommunications Business Development Manager Nationwide

1999 sees the launch of the world's first national digital mobile communications network, dedicated to a client investing hundreds of millions of pounds and working closely with partners such as Nokia, to build this unique network. Rolled out across Europe, they will be able to provide companies the seamless use of high-speed mobile data transmission, internet/intranet access, one-to-one telephony and instant messaging functionality previously unavailable on any existing single network. In short, they will revolutionise businesses communicate.

Managing sales cycles ranging from 1-6 months and longer, the ability to listen and understand is essential. You must have strong presentation skills, drive, tenacity, a sixth sense for clients' needs and satisfy them.

You may currently be involved with a specific vertical market, such as:

- Transportation Distribution ■ Manufacturing ■ Construction ■ Government
- Field Service ■ Airlines ■ Business Services

You may currently be involved selling products and services such as:

- Facilities management ■ Disaster recovery
- Outsourcing contracts ■ Capital Equipment
- Office Equipment ■ PABXs ■ PCs ■ Software

For further information please contact Ben Atfield or one of his resourcing team on 0171 806 1472. Alternatively, send your CV with details of your current remuneration, quoting reference number BAST119 to Ben Atfield at McGregor Boyall Telecommunications, 114 Middlesex Street, London E1 7JH. Fax: 0171 377 0569. E-mail: dolphin@mcgregor-boyall.com

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Due to our success at acquiring new business, we are currently looking for qualified actuaries to join our busy employee benefits department. Successful candidates will hold a current Scheme Actuary certificate, and the role will be Actuarial Adviser to a portfolio of corporate clients.

You should be a team player with strong communication and negotiation skills, and have the enthusiasm and desire to succeed in a competitive environment.

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Range £40,000 - £50,000 inc.

If you are a part qualified actuary with four years' experience in a pensions consultancy environment, and would like the opportunity to establish yourself in an independent, successful company then we would like to hear from you.

You will have responsibility for monitoring and assisting other part qualified members of the actuarial team in the execution of their duties. Your actuarial studies will be actively supported by our professional team and, once qualified, you will be given consultancy responsibilities. You should therefore be client-focused with strong communication skills.

Human Resources Generalist

Range £35,000 - £47,000 inc.

Due to our continuing expansion, we are looking for an individual with excellent all round knowledge of Human Resource issues to join our professional team. The successful candidate may have experience in Recruitment, or Training and Development and be interested in the IPD qualification. The ability to work under pressure and to tight deadlines is essential. Additionally the ideal candidate will have an interest in employment legislation and good IT skills.

Our Flexible Benefits Package includes the option to home up to 60 days Annual Leave.

If you think you can rise to the challenge and are attracted to an environment that promotes real achievement, please apply in the strictest confidence to:

Don Brooks - Human Resources Executive, Gissings Consultancy Services Limited, Firstbury House, 23 Firstbury Circus, London EC2M 7UH. E-mail: BROOKSD@Gissings.co.uk

Corporate Healthcare Adviser

Range £35,000 - £47,000 inc.

Due to our ongoing success in the Healthcare market, we are looking for a person with experience in healthcare consultancy, or private medical insurance, to join our professional team. To meet our requirements candidates should have the ability to deliver business presentations, be able to retain, service and develop existing clients, have good interpersonal skills and be an enthusiastic and dynamic team player.

Facilities Executive

Range £35,000 - £47,000 inc.

Due to continued expansion, we are looking for an individual with proven capabilities within an office-based administration environment. The successful candidate will be responsible for all aspects of office administration on a daily basis, including project work and site maintenance. The ideal candidate will be able to prioritise their own and other workloads, be able to work to tight deadlines, and also possess strong IT skills. Applications from individuals who have served in the Ministry of Defence will be considered.

Profund Specialist

Range £30,000 - £40,000 inc.

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Business Link London Central is a successful and dynamic member of the national Business Link Network providing professional advice and support for small and medium sized businesses.

We are a highly motivated, proactive and client focused team and are looking to add a number of keen, energetic and innovative individuals to contribute to our continuing commitment to help businesses grow and prosper.

We recognise the need to invest in the development of our people to ensure that they can make the best possible use of their skills and expertise in pursuit of business excellence.

Do you have the necessary energy, enthusiasm and communication skills allied with a broad and practical business background to contribute positively to the range of opportunities on offer?

If so, send your CV and letter stating how you meet the requirements, quoting the relevant reference number to:

John Henderson,
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2 Solihull Court, White Rose Way, Doncaster,
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Tel: 01382 761222
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Human Resources Manager (Ref No 90401)

Circa £35k + 15% performance bonus
As an experienced professional with full IPD membership and five years experience of HR management with experience of IP and ISO9001 you will be expected to make a major contribution to the continuing success of B.L.C. Using the Business Excellence Model as your framework you will influence business strategy and oversee all formal accreditation requirements as well as managing and co-ordinating all staff recruitment and development.

Business Adviser (Ref No 90402)

Circa £34k + 15% performance bonus
As a Business Adviser you will need to have in-depth business knowledge, professional qualifications and experience across several functions. You will work closely with some of the most dynamic businesses in the area, play a key role in the local business community and conduct detailed analyses and investigations to interpret current performance and support the development of our clients.

Finance Counsellor (Ref No 90403)

Circa £34k + 15% performance bonus
The Finance Counsellor will work with small and medium sized businesses to provide a full financial planning service to develop and implement sound financial principles to underpin their growth and development. You will use your financial and finance raising experience to enable our clients to pursue their business goals.

Quality Manager (Ref No 90404)

Circa £28k + 15% performance bonus
Reporting to the Human Resources Manager you will be expected to ensure that the B.L.C. team is supported by high quality processes and systems to underpin the quality of service to clients. Within the framework of the Business Excellence Model you will be expected to use your considerable ISO9001 experience to make a major contribution to manage the Quality System and to ensure that all formal accreditation requirements are met and exceeded.



We are committed to an Equal Opportunities Policy and actively encourage applications from all sections of the community

ARE YOU MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR ABILITIES?

Working for the leading UK business consultancy, you will be part of a team of professionals who are helping businesses to grow and prosper. You will be responsible for a wide range of business development activities, including sales, marketing and customer service. You will be working in a fast-paced, dynamic environment where you will have the opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge. If you are a motivated, energetic individual with a strong background in business development, we would like to hear from you. Please send your CV and a covering letter to: **0171-935 5482** or **0161-226 2996**.

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The Challenge

- To support the business development strategy, liaising with business managers to identify and communicate key corporate messages externally and around the global network
- To produce detailed and strategic communications plans
- To develop an international PR network
- To initiate and manage press campaigns to be mirrored worldwide
- To pro-actively yet creatively manage PR communication via a wide-range of tools including website, brochures, newsletters whilst maintaining strong client confidentiality ethos.

The Requirement

We are looking for an experienced PR professional (4+ years) with strong commercial focus and an interest in international affairs; a practical, common-sense approach; results orientated with a natural influencing style; excellent communication skills and experience of crisis management situations.

This is a unique challenge within a distinctive organisation. If you think you can make a major contribution to moving our unusual profile forward, please apply by sending CV with covering letter, stating current salary to Debra Farnham - Group Personnel Manager, Control Risks Group Limited, 83 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0HW or e-mail to recruitment@control-risks.com.



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Role

Reporting to the Association's Director you will work closely with leading people in the industry to help Members maximise their doorstep business. You will become an essential source of advice on a wide range of issues affecting direct sales retailing and manage a series of initiatives to increase the industry's customers.

Candidates

A graduate with a minimum of two years experience in a business oriented culture you may have a marketing qualification or experience gained in the food/retailing sector. You must be an effective communicator, able to direct meetings, write with style to deadlines and be able to grasp the dynamics of this industry quickly.

If you are interested in this position please send your cv, in confidence, to Ms Emily Elington, National Dairymen's Association, 19 Cornwell Terrace, London, NW1 4QP.

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Small IMRO regulated Investment Management Firm urgently seeks an experienced (not less than 15 years) International Fixed Income Fund Manager with experience in credit analysis. He or she will have at least two years experience in dealing with a European client base and speak fluent German. Further requirements are a University degree, CFA, IMRO and IMC registration. Job is based in London but requires extensive travelling throughout Europe.

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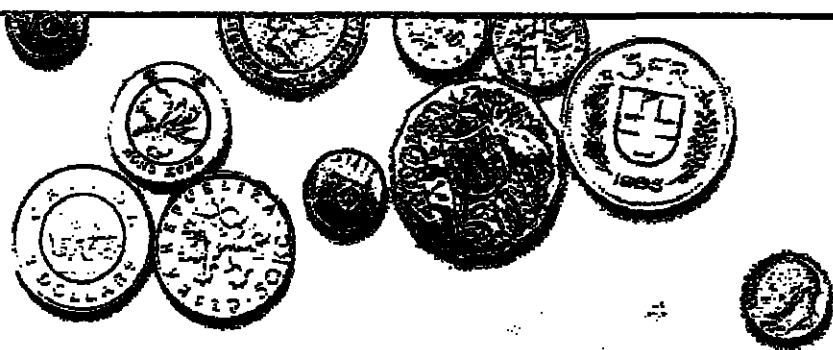
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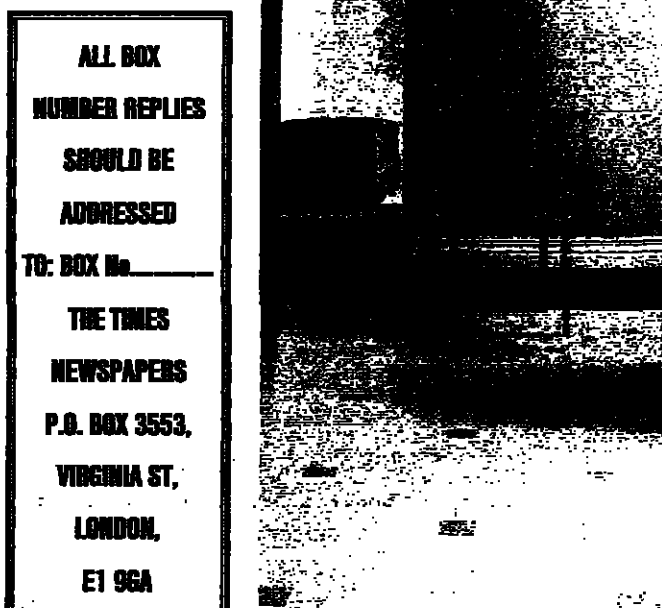
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The successful candidates will have:

- A good honours degree and at least 12 months post graduate work experience.
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Dixons will offer you the opportunity and training to enable you to succeed and will reward you with a competitive package. If you are interested, please send your CV and current salary details to Kay Jones - Wolsey at Talsman, Portland House, 4 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5AA by 19 April 1999.

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The Sunday Times
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Selected candidate will perform strategic financial analysis on markets in the US, Latin America and Asia for global planning. Two years minimum experience in major financial institution required. Senior relationships with institutional clients and public agencies a must. Must be fluent in at least one Asian language (Chinese or Japanese). Previous small business experience a plus. Knowledge of database applications preferred. Graduate studies in economics preferred. Excellent package.

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CRICKET

England are no match for peerless Pakistan

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN SHARJAH

SHARJAH (Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat England by 90 runs

A FEISTY, belatedly thrilling partnership between Graeme Hick and Andrew Flintoff could not disguise the fact that England were heavily beaten by a highly-motivated Pakistan side at the CBFS Stadium yesterday. Although conditions contrast more strikingly to those back home, the enormity of this defeat — the seventh in eight one-day internationals — ought to alarm the selectors just five weeks before the start of the World Cup.

Inferior in every department, England conceded their highest total in this form of cricket, with the Pakistan innings of 323 for five underpinned by Ijaz Ahmed, who scored 137 from 130 balls. No England batsman could match him and unless the side recovers to beat India tomorrow, the prospects of qualifying for the final of the triangular tournament will be remote.

Briefly, Hick, who made 65, and Flintoff, whose 50 included four sixes, suggested that in conditions heavily in favour of the batsmen, something akin to a miracle might materialise. However, Saqlain Mush-

taq claimed both wickets in the space of four balls to expose the lower order.

Pakistan have undergone a transformation since Wasim Akram returned as captain at the start of the year. They must now be considered even as potential winners of the tournament beginning on May 14. The confidence brimming through the ranks just three days after winning the Pepsi Cup in Bangalore became apparent from the first legitimate delivery, propelled to the boundary by Saeed Anwar and coursed through the innings until Moin Khan struck the last two balls for six.

That Flintoff, making his international debut in one-day cricket, should be entrusted with the last over suggested that Alec Stewart wants to assess the young Lancashire all-rounder under pressure. Despite bearing the brunt of the powerful late hitting, Flintoff can be judged neither better nor worse than his more experienced colleagues.

Collectively England failed to maintain a consistent line and length on a slow surface permitting little margin for error. A listless performance in the field could at least be mitigated in part by afternoon temperatures in the high 30s and the after-effects of a



Ijaz paddles the ball round to the leg side during his explosive innings of 137 in 130 deliveries for Pakistan yesterday

16-hour journey from the training camp in Lahore.

Ijaz Ahmed found an effective foil in Shahid Afridi during a partnership of 87 in 17 overs for the second wicket before Inzamam-ul-Haq, restraining his aggressive instincts, pro-

vided even stouter support in a stand of 145 at more than a run per ball. Ijaz struck Croft on to the roof of the pavilion as he raised the tempo soon after completing a half-century. Stewart rotated the bowlers in vain before Ijaz drove Gough

to Hick at long-off. In his next over, Gough accounted for Inzamam as the stocky batsman attempted a similar stroke, having scored 59 from 64 balls with just three fours. A fine, low catch by Adam Hogg took Ijaz down to his right at deep cover

to remove Wasim represented a rare impressive moment by an England fielder.

England are using the time in Sharjah to extend their database on the opposition. If he did not know so already, David Lloyd, the coach, can now log the fact that Shoaib Akhtar is quick enough to make life extremely unpleasant for batsmen. Undaunted when Stewart struck him for successive boundaries in his first over, he responded by taking three wickets in a fiery new-ball spell timed at 95 miles per hour. Knight played on to the tenth ball of the innings and Stewart edged an attempted drive to Inzamam at slip.

Thorp flattered with some well-timed strokes, but the clip off his legs that found short mid-wicket was not among them and Azhar Mahmood breached Fairbrother's defences. Then it was just a damage limitation exercise.

SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

PAKISTAN	
Saeed Anwar c Stewart b Gough...17	(27 balls, 1 six, 2 fours)
Shahid Afridi c Gough b Salim...41	(54 balls, 1 six, 3 fours)
Ijaz Ahmed c Hick b Gough...137	(130 balls, 1 six, 12 fours)
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Hick b Gough...59	(64 balls, 3 fours)
Wasim Akram c Hogg b Flintoff...22	(14 balls, 2 ones, 2 fours)
Moin Khan not out...28	(14 balls, 2 ones, 2 fours)
Azhar Mahmood not out...0	(0 balls)
Extras (b 1, lb 10, w 3, nb 4)...18	
Total (5 wickets, 50 overs, 220 mins)...323	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30 (Shahid Afridi, 15 mins, 52.3; 2-101 (Inzamam-ul-Haq, 45 mins, 5.30); 3-137 (Ijaz Ahmed, 55 mins, 5.30)	

ENGLAND	
N V Knight b Shoaib...1	(10 balls, 3 fours)
A J Stewart c Inzamam b Shoaib...18	(10 balls, 3 fours)
G A Hick c Shoaib b Salim...65	(60 balls, 5 fours)
G P Thorpe c Azhar b Shoaib...18	(15 balls, 1 six, 1 four)
N H Fairbrother b Azhar...19	(20 balls, 3 fours)
A Flintoff c Shoaib b Salim...50	(31 balls, 4 ones, 2 fours)
A J Hogg c Shoaib b Salim...18	(18 balls, 1 six)
M A Hogg c Moin b Shoaib...11	(14 balls, 1 six)
Extras (b 1, lb 10, w 3, nb 4)...18	
Total (5 wickets, 50 overs, 220 mins)...233	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12 (Stewart, 10 mins, 2.20); 2-29 (Hick, 35 mins, 4.50); 3-59 (Inzamam, 45 mins, 5.30); 4-101 (Inzamam, 45 mins, 5.30); 5-137 (Ijaz Ahmed, 55 mins, 5.30)	

McGrath mars match-winning performance

ANTIGUA (final day of five): Australia beat West Indies by 176 runs

IT MAY have been enough to make any red-blooded fast bowler spit, but it cost Glenn McGrath a fine, a reprimand and a warning before he delivered the victory that Australia craved to maintain their grip on the Frank Worrell Trophy.

McGrath did not have to stoop to anything so distasteful. Adrian Griffith, who had been forced to retire hurt when McGrath hit him on the elbow, had defied Australia for almost five hours, but there were still 2½ hours and 41 overs remaining when McGrath had Corey Collymore caught at third slip to give him his thirtieth wicket of the

series and Australia victory by 176 runs to ensure that the series ended level at 2-2.

Few in the stands noticed anything untoward as the umpires removed the balls at the end of the fourth day, but the all-seeing eye of television captured the unattractive spectacle of McGrath spitting on the

pitch in the vicinity of Griffith just in case officialdom had missed it. Brian Lara, the West Indies captain, drew it to the attention of Raman Subba Row, the match referee, and after studying several television replays, he charged McGrath with bringing the game into disrepute.

At the subsequent hearing, Subba Row accepted that, in the act of spitting, McGrath was not actually aiming at Griffith but found that, because the incident had been seen by so many television viewers it not too many spectators, it demanded disciplinary action. Consequently, McGrath was reprimanded, warned and, since he was already under a suspended sentence of 30 per cent of his match fee (about £900) for abusing Alan Mullally during the sixth Test at Melbourne earlier this year, fined.

McGrath, whose sustained aggression has done more than anything to quell the great West Indies revival in this series, apologised for "something which occurred on the spur of the moment" and later shook hands with Griffith. There was more frustration for him yesterday when Griffith, a left-hander from Barbados playing in only his third Test, continued to defy all his attempts to get him out.

West Indies had lost Jimmy Adams in the third over after they resumed on 105 for four when he overbalanced as Colin Miller surprised him with a quicker ball and Ian Healy completed a brilliant leg-side stumping.

Griffith, who often seemed to be all at sea against McGrath, managed to see him off and went on to survive comfortably enough against the swing of Adam Dale and the spin of Miller and Stuart MacGill.

Ridley Jacobs kept Griffith company for 25 overs before Steve Waugh, the captain, turned again to the medium pace of Greg Blewett, who had already taken the important wicket of Carl Hooper.

Surprised Jacobs with his skiddy pace to have him leg-before and, though Nehemiah Perry survived to lunch, the new ball was due soon afterwards and McGrath took it at 189 and resumed his assault on Griffith. However, it was MacGill who began to pick his way through the tail. Perry slogged him to mid-wicket and, when the leg spinner bowled Curtly Ambrose, West Indies were 190 for eight with 45 overs remaining.

Griffith's long vigil ended on 56 when he was given out leg-before playing no stroke to a MacGill leg-break and it was only a matter of time before McGrath completed one of the greatest fast bowling performances seen even in these parts.

SCOREBOARD FROM ANTIGUA

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 303 (S R Waugh 12 not out, J Langer 51, C E L Ambrose 5 for 94)	
Second Innings 306 (J L Langer 127, M E Waugh 65, C A Walsh 4 for 78)	
WEST INDIES: First Innings 222 (B C Lara 100)	
Second Innings	
S L Campbell c Healy b McGrath...29	
A F Griffith lbw b MacGill...56	
D R E Joseph c Miller b Dale...17	
D G Lara lbw b McGrath...12	
C L Hooper lbw b Blewett...12	
J C Adams st Healy b Miller...18	
T R D Jacobs lbw b Blewett...16	

N O Perry c Slater b MacGill...26	
E L Ambrose b MacGill...4	
C D Collymore c MacGill b McGrath...8	
C A Walsh not out...0	
Extras (b 5, lb 12, nb 3)...20	
Total...211	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-58, 3-69, 4-97, 5-105, 6-145, 7-184, 8-190, 9-209	
BOWLING: McGrath 35.5-5-50-3; Dale 12-5-29-1; MacGill 26-5-80-3; Miller 21-10-27-1; Blewett 8-3-9-2	
Umpires: D L Orchard (South Africa) and S A Bucknor	

RUGBY LEAGUE: LONDON BRONCOS CAPTAIN FACES DECISION ON WEMBLEY START

Edwards far from final thumbs-up

SHAUN EDWARDS, the London Broncos captain, is considering whether he should risk permanent injury by making a record-extending eleventh Silk Cut Challenge Cup final appearance at Wembley against Leeds Rhinos next month.

A specialist has advised the former Great Britain scrum half not to play for up to 12 weeks after he broke his right thumb in the semi-final defeat of Castleford Tigers. Edwards played the second half of the match and six days afterwards against Hull Sharks using painkillers before going for X-rays. "It's broken in a really bad place and if it doesn't set properly, I might end up with very bad arthritis — and I'm right-handed," Edwards said.

Dan Stains, the Broncos coach, is reluctant to rule out a player with such a fearless reputation as Edwards, who

played on with a fractured eye socket during Wigan's 1990 cup final defeat of Warrington.

Meanwhile, London hope to have Robbie Simpson, Robbie Beasley and Peter Gill back in their pack for the visit to the Stoop Memorial Ground tomorrow night of St Helens.

The JJB Super League leaders. However, their front-row problems have not been helped by an injury to Matt Salter in the defeat at Leeds on Monday.

After a 30-14 league defeat away to Halifax on Tuesday night, Andy Gregory, the Sal-

Cricket goes first class for long haul

Richard Hobson looks forward to a congested and lengthy new season that gets under way today

TO FOLLOW the English cricket season through its course requires stamina, tolerance and a keen sense of orientation. Never before has the programme started as early as it does today and, if the 1998 schedule seemed to be confusing, then it stands as a model of simplicity alongside the 165 long days ahead.

That it should begin in the spring tranquility of Fenner's and The Parks remains at least one constant, yet, despite unseasonably mild weather, the crowds will be sparse and even passive interest limited. For Lancashire and Worcestershire, who take on Cambridge and Oxford University respectively, this is little more than extended net practice.

Despite the swollen calendar, the demise of the contest between the county champions and MCC or England A is a shame. If nothing else, it presented an early insight into the selectors' thinking for subsequent international fixtures.

Whether Oxford and Cambridge retain first-class status far into the next millennium must be considered a matter of doubt. For cricketers purposes, Oxford have reacted to the possibility of being downgraded by taking the bold step of merging with Oxford Brookes University — the former polytechnic — to try to attract young cricketers unable to meet the stiff academic requirements of the colleges.

The England and Wales Cricket Board will announce shortly six universities designated as centres of excellence. They will enjoy games against the counties, although it is unclear if they will be classified first-class. Regardless, an initiative to allow talented youngsters the opportunity to continue to play to a testing standard without forsaking education has to be applauded.

Delegates from the counties, along with MCC, approved the idea at the first Class Forum meeting last week. Decisions on the framework of the game next season were deferred, but, flicking through the fixture list for 1999, it seems perverse that more cricket, including the prospect of a new 25-over competition, will be introduced.

Clearly, the concept of retaining a structure for successive seasons, allowing players and the public a degree of familiarity, is anathema to hyperactive decision-makers. Voting to alter the length of games in the new CGU

National League from 50 to 45 overs before it has even begun, surpassed the previous capacity for tinkering, as did the U-turn on a moratorium on overseas players for a trial year when the best will be involved in the World Cup.

The National League, embracing promotion and relegation, replaces what used to be known as the Sunday League, before games became allocated to different days of the week, seemingly at random. Rather than starting grandly with a full programme, it begins in dribs and drabs, Leicestershire entertain Hampshire on April 17 in the first division, with another game — plus two from the second division — a day later.

Once again, the championship is peripatetic. At least Leicestershire, defending the title, have been allowed the courtesy of playing in the first

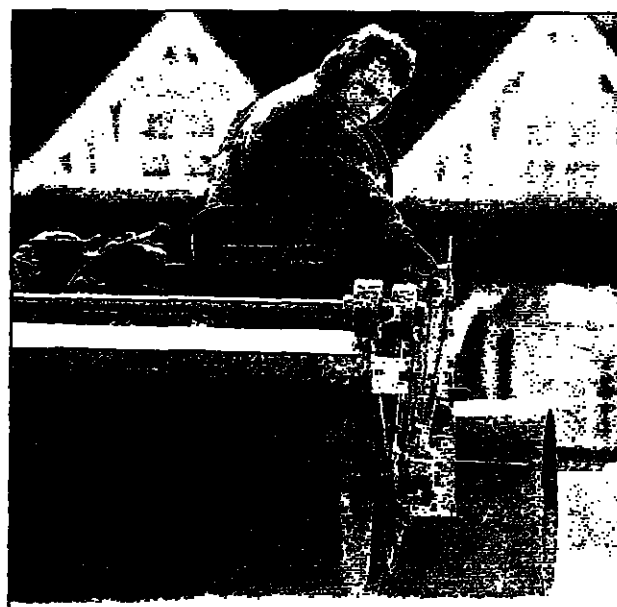
A 16-page guide to the coming season, with full details of the World Cup and domestic competitions

round of matches, against Essex at Chelmsford starting on Tuesday next week. Do not, however, make the mistake of thinking that this sets the tone. By the middle of May, four-day games will have begun on five different days of the week.

An expansion of the Nat West Trophy to 60 teams represents another minefield to the unwary. As well as the minor counties, it features recreational teams from each of the first-class counties, comprising the best club cricketers in the area. Denmark are also admitted for the first time.

The World Cup will nudge county affairs into the background well before England open the tournament against Sri Lanka at Lord's on May 14. In the week before, any number of disgruntled swells have the warmth to press a point in support of matches between the 12 competing nations and the counties.

By far the most intriguing takes place at Canterbury on May 7, when Kent entertain England — a throwback to the days of Alfred Mynn and Fuller Pilch. Surely this confirms that, however much people tamper with the game, no idea is original, simply a variation of a theme.



Paul Todd gives the pitch at The Parks a final roll before the game there today. Photograph: Ben Gurr

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Tokens will appear up to April 18 and a bonus token will be published tomorrow. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Friday, April 30, 1999. Normal Times Newspapers prize draw rules apply. The terms and conditions will appear again on Saturday.

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WORD-WATCHING

LEDGIT
(a) A label projecting from a leaf of a book. From from ledge + it. The Bookseller, 1885: "Half-bound, with Parchment Ledgits for the years."

MOLLAG
(a) A dog's skin blown up as a bladder, and used to float the herring-nets. The Manx word. As empty as a molla - quite empty. As full as a molla - dead drunk. "Your head's as empty as a molla."

MAHOE
(b) The New Zealand Whitewood tree. *Meliosrus ramiflora*. "Mahoe grows to a height of not more than 50 feet."

MONGIBEL
(a) Mount Etna. From *Monte Gibello*. From the Arabic *jabal* - a mountain. "Within us we felt too often such furnaces or Mongibels of fires."

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Changes to Augusta National bring big hitters to the fore



Pointing the way: Woods, already a champion, passes the time with Garcia, one for the future, during practice for the Masters at Augusta National

THE 63rd Masters begins this morning with animated talk of golf's new rivalry. Welcome to the dawn of an era in which Tiger Woods and David Duval will battle it out around the world as Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus did in the early Sixties and then Nicklaus and Tom Watson did in the Seventies and Eighties.

Will Mark O'Meara, the champion, help either Woods or Duval into the winner's green jacket on Sunday evening, so promising that we will be enthralled for the coming years by the derring-do of Duval, so cerebral and low-key off the course and so shunderous on it, and Woods's insouciant power?

Such a view needs a ring of authenticity to underscore it. It does not come from Jack Nicklaus, whose absence from the Masters was likened by Greg Norman to "your wife losing the diamond out of her wedding ring". Nicklaus has played in every Masters since 1959, when he was an amateur, but he misses the event this year because he has not recovered fully after having a ceramic hip fitted three months ago.

"I think the reason Arnold and I became a rivalry was because Arnold was winning most of the major championships and then I came along and won my first major by

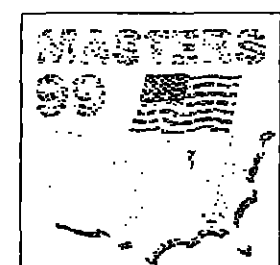
Woods favoured in the long run

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN AUGUSTA

beating Arnold in a play-off and then came back in 1963 and won the Masters. So, all of a sudden, it was two fellows winning major championships against each other.

This is hardly the case with Woods, who has won one major championship — the Masters in 1997 — and Duval, who has won 11 of his past 34 events but not yet a major. "That doesn't mean they aren't the two best players in the world, because I think they are," Nicklaus said, "but if you want to create a rivalry, wait until one wins the Masters and another wins the US Open. Then you've got a rivalry."

Furthermore, raising Duval and Woods to a status far above their rivals seems to be ignoring Ernie Els, who has won twice as many major championships as Woods and Duval combined and is a legitimate member of the group of great players under 30. It also overlooks Vijay Singh, who



holds the US PGA title and so could win two major championships in a row if he were to triumph this week. Davis Love III, who has finished in the top ten three times in the Nineties, and Lee Westwood, whose form was impressive in Jacksonville two weeks ago.

For years now, Europe's challenge has been small in numbers but large in impact. Europeans having won ten of the past 19 Masters. Oddly, this year, when a record 12 members of the European Tour have been invited to compete at the Masters, Europe's

challenge seems weaker than ever.

The glorious exception is Sergio Garcia, 19, the precociously talented Spaniard who is competing in his 27th professional tournament. Garcia, coached and guided by Severiano Ballesteros and José María Olazábal, is a good bet to be this year's Amateur champion since Peter McEvoy in 1978 to play four rounds.

There is speculation as to when Garcia will turn professional and although the informed guess is at the Spanish Open in two weeks, it is not written in stone.

Colin Montgomerie has always firmly held the view that he cannot play Augusta, that a course with such wide fairways does not reward his accuracy from the tee or his inclination to hit a high fade. Funny, that it didn't seem to stop Nicklaus from winning six times here.

If, as Nicklaus said, it is too

soon to be talking of a Duval and Woods rivalry, it is not too soon to suggest that Duval may be too emotionally spent to win his third event in succession, while Woods, who is close to his best, can triumph.

The changes to the course, lengthening the 2nd and 17th holes and planting 35ft pine trees on the right of the 15th, can only help Woods and the doubling of the length of some of the rough should hardly affect him. With his enormous length, he can get nearer to the 2nd green in two than most and so position himself better to pitch close. "Everything they have done has made it better for the long hitter," Love said. "The more difficult it is always gives the advantage to the long hitter."

The Masters has been won more in the Nineties by a golfer of finesse — Páidí (1990 and 1996), Olazábal (1994), Crenshaw (1995), O'Meara (1998) — than one of length — Woodman (1991), Couples (1992) and Woods (1997). The changes this year suggest that it will be a big hitter who will wear the green jacket. If it is Woods, then, perhaps, we can talk of a rivalry.

WEBSITE: www.masters.org — official site
TELEVISION: BBC2, 9pm; BBC1, 10.30pm

Strolling along the precipice of paradise

A CBS man with a sculpted haircut and a nice blazer speaks to camera, from a position high up above the 18th green at Augusta National. Below us, this historic, emerald arena looks quite small — but then so was the *Monna Lisa*. He clears

Lynne Truss feels the shivers down her spine in the technicolour dreamworld of Augusta National

his throat and begins again. "As Mark O'Meara lined up his 105th putt of the tournament," he says earnestly (and identically) for the fifth time, "he realised that hanging in

there had gotten him to the precipice of history." He pauses, to let the phrase "precipice of history" sink in and then resumes. "Now was the time to make a leap of faith" — long pause — "in himself."

Wow. It's all shiver-up-the-spine stuff here at Augusta National, a place whose reputation for exclusivity means that entrance to the course in Masters week is something like having a day-ticket to paradise — especially if your idea of paradise includes waving at Greg Norman or seeing for yourself how long Bernhard Langer's putter is.

People wandering around

on practice days, and spotting Jack Nicklaus in a buggy, have an expression of pinch-me awe last seen on the teenage Richard Attenborough in the film *A Matter of Life and Death*, when he steps off the celestial escalator, sees the blonde with the big book and says, with eyes like saucers, "This is heaven, isn't it?"

It's got flowering bushes, you know. Famous for it. Full-blown azaleas all over the shop, in those garish pinks, cherries and mauves that always look like they've been applied afterwards by someone colour-blind with too much paint on the brush.

It's all immaculately tidy. It's quiet. It's "southern by the grace of God". And it's all very, very courteous and

friendly, with people seriously calling you (but only where applicable) "Ma'am".

Today, the best players in the world start teeing off with their names announced and a round of applause. Or to put it another way, the precipice of history leads them to take the leap of faith — long pause — in luck, nerve and a following wind. Practice days are considerably more relaxed and the visitors take pictures of scoreboards and litter bins and grab Fred Couples's autograph before he can dodge out of the way.

Personally, I have an ambivalence about collecting

'The azaleas look like they have been painted by someone colour-blind'

autographs that means I hang back from the feeding frenzy and then, afterwards, feel a shameful urge to mug the people who've been successful. Which is my way of admitting that I let Couples go, when he was this close and now will never forgive myself.

Out on the course, the pretty-in-pink is at odds with the weirdly surreal, as the huge greens, like Dali docks, bend in the middle and flop at the edges and the wide, tilting fairways try to trick the unwary into believing that the course is easy — just before they lose orientation and fall over.

This year, momentarily, there is a bit of rough (to coin a phrase), but most people have been pointing and saying, "Call that rough?" because at an inch and a half it doesn't exactly grab you round the ankles and rip holes in your jumper.

A reassuring amount of laughing and gooning takes place on practice days. On the 18th green, Fred Funk makes a putt and thrusts both arms up, O'Meara-fashion. On the 15th green, John Miller, a round-faced amateur from Indiana, lets one of his small, round-faced children make his putt for him (it goes in).

And at the short 16th, played over a small lake, Phil Mickelson and John Daly both rise to the crowd's trick-shot challenge and "skip" the ball across the water, so that it bounces four times and reaches the safety of the far bank, to general cheers and applause.

Who will look over that precipice of history when the time comes? Most people nominate the players they feel deserve to win — Norman, Couples, Daly — or the people who seem dead certs — Duval, Woods. So I'm plumping for Ernie Els, which isn't controversial: Sergio Garcia, because for a young European amateur to win it would be deliriously exciting; Phil Mickelson, because it's about time, quite honestly, that he stopped loafing about in major tournaments; and Jesper Parnevik, because everyone has a Scundhorpe United and Parnevik is mine.

TEE TIMES FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

United States unless stated	14.54 and 17.50: F Couples, S Elington (Aus), S McCann (Aus), J Durant	16.55 and 13.59: N Fields (GB), B Watts, J Durant
* denotes an amateur all times BST	15.05 and 18.01: B Faxon, J P Hayes, T Ockler (Nem)	17.06 and 14.10: F Zoeller, M Ozols (Latvian), F Park
13.00 today: G Sarazen, B Nelson, S Snead (honorary starters)	15.16 and 18.12: T Watson, M Kuchner, S Appleby (Aus)	17.17 and 14.21: A Palmer, J Miller, W Wood
13.15 today and 16.11 tomorrow: W Casper, G Brewer, D Ford	15.27 and 18.23: J Woodman (GB), P Spolnik (Swe), A Magee	17.28 and 14.32: B Langer (Ger), M Calvescchio, D Clarke (GB)
13.26 and 16.22: S Pate, S Hoch, R Estes	15.38 and 18.34: T Woods, S Garcia (Sp), T Heron	17.39 and 14.34: L Larson, J Cook, F Luckett
13.37 and 16.33: J Daly, G Herndstad (Swe), O Browne	15.49 and 18.45: L Mize, C Franco (Par), J Sluman	17.50 and 14.36: J Hazz, W Andreado, T Elom (Den)
13.59 and 16.55: C Stadler, G Parry (Aus), R Mediate	16.00 and 18.56: T Aaron, M A Jimenez (Sp), C Parry	18.01 and 15.06: M O'Meara, H Kuchner, L Westwood (GB)
14.10 and 17.06: R Floyd, C Montgomerie (GB), S Jones	16.11 and 13.15: G Player (SA), T Immenhove (SA), S Stricker	18.02 and 15.07: D Duval, N Price (Cm), P Ives
14.21 and 17.17: J M Olazábal (Sp), W Gibson, B Crambler	16.22 and 13.26: B Cramshaw, T McInight, L Roberts	18.03 and 15.08: C Coody, B Jobe, P J Johnson (Swe)
14.32 and 17.28: E Ego (SA), D Love III, T Lehman	16.33 and 13.37: S Ballesteros (Sp), H Sutton, W Maylar	18.04 and 15.09: M Brooks, S Cink, D Toms
14.43 and 17.38: J Leonard, S Moriyama (Japan), J Huston	16.44 and 13.48: J Maggart, V Singh (Fil), P Stewart	18.05 and 15.10: P Azinger, J Furyk, G Day

TELEVISION CHOICE

An inspirational voyage

Simon's Journey
BBC1, 9.30pm

Simon Weston, OBE, the Welsh Guardsman who survived 46 per cent burns during the Falklands war, has been the subject of four previous BBC films. The latest brings us up-to-date and includes a summary of his story so far, from the excruciatingly painful treatment of his face and hands, through the years of depression, unemployment and heavy drinking, to the determination to leave home, find a new role and set up a charity, and the subsequent achievement of national fame as a fundraiser and public speaker. In the last film he returned to the Falklands and met the Argentine pilot whose bomb hit the *Sir Galahad* and caused Simon's injuries. Tonight we see the pilot, Carlos Cachón, accompanied by his wife, visiting the Westons at home. Another highlight of the film is Weston's fundraising participation in a New York marathon, sponsored by Paul Newman.

Making It Habitat
BBC2, 7.30pm (not Scotland or Northern Ireland)

In an effort to regain its place at or near the head of the field of domestic interior design, the Habitat company recruited the designer Tom Dixon to give shape to young designers. He discovers two graduates of Brighton University, Jacqui Caley and Rachael Roberts, and offers them short-term contracts on the basis of their exhibits. The real world proves both exhilarating and frustrating for the pair, although Dixon does seem to be pleased with what they come out and takes them to Venice to see samples of Caley's designs being made.

NYPD Blue
Channel 4, 10pm

Detective Sipowicz (Dennis Franz) is in double jeopardy as he allows his concern over Simone (Jimmy Smits) to affect his judgment while investigating the murder of a 75-year-old widow. Simone is awaiting a heart transplant operation (the pre-



Simon Weston meets Paul Newman as part of his fundraising (BBC1, 9.30pm)

dict officers have orders to report in any likely donors) and Sipowicz loses control when confronted with the mutilated body of a woman whose only relatives, her two sons, are apparently indifferent to her fate. When one of them attempts to hang himself after questioning, does Sipowicz rescue him just a little too slowly, in order to provide his best buddy with a new heart? Tony Patrick

Golf: The US Masters
BBC2, 9pm and BBC1, 10.30pm

Steve Ryder introduces coverage of the opening round of the 63rd Masters from Augusta, Georgia. Mark O'Meara ranks high among the favourites — ditto his fellow American and close friend Tiger Woods, the 1997 victor, who lost out as O'Meara triumphed 12 months ago. The British challenge is likely to be spearheaded by Colin Montgomerie, who ended 1998 as Europe's top golfer for the sixth successive year — and the ever-confident Lee Westwood. The drama will unravel beneath the towering pine trees and along the azalea-fringed fairways which make the Augusta National golf course one of the most spectacular in the world. We will have to wait until the early hours of Monday to see who prevails. Louise Godfrey

RADIO CHOICE

Mayoral Chances
Radio 4, 8pm

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, Ken Livingstone and the other candidates to be Mayor of London ought to listen to this account, presented by Nigel Wrench, of the various attempts that have been made to run London properly down the centuries. Afterwards, they may feel like giving up the candidacy and moving to something easier. As Wrench reports, in medieval times the monarch and the Lord Mayor fought each other to a standstill for control of the city, a battle that was of course as nothing compared with Margaret Thatcher versus Livingstone in the 1980s (Thatcher by a knockout). There is also the question of how the Mayor will get on with the Lord Mayor of the City of London, potentially a vexed relationship.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session 10.00 The Global Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00 Andy Kershaw 2.00am Gabe Warran 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Bob Harris Country. See Choice 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 Take It Easy: California Cool (30) 9.30 The News 10.00 Alan Partridge 11.00 The Alan Partridge Show 11.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00 Duffo 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ian Payne: Racing from Antford covered 2.00pm 3.30 and 5.45 news 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Wembley: The Church of Football. New series. Four-part documentary charting the history of Wembley stadium 8.00 Inside Edge 9.00 Hoops 9.30 Sportscap 10.00 Late Night 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boy Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00 Justice With Jacobs 1.00pm Anna Reabum 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.45 Cup Winner's Cup: Chelsea v Mallorca 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN

6.30am Breakfast Show Team 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Gary Davies 1.00am James Merritt 4.30 Phil Kennedy

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petros Tseliomy Includes Nielsen (Overtures: A Fantasy Journey to the Faroes); Antonio Soler (Fandango)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Bach (Chaconne for Solo No 2 in D minor, BWV1004); Beethoven (Variations and Fugue in E flat, Op 35, Eroica); Moeran (Symphony in G minor)
10.30 Artist of the Week: John Tomlinson
11.00 Sound Stories: Cathedrals Richard Baker investigates the significance of Gloucester Cathedral
12.00 Composer of the Week: Britten (i)
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Joshua Rifkin, piano, plays preludes and fugues by Bach interspersed with some classic raggs by Scott Joplin (ii)
2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Symphony Orchestra, Rosen (Overture: The Italian in Algiers); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor); Delius (On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring); Elgar (Symphony No 2 in E flat)
4.00 The Philharmonic of the week series in which Piers Lane investigates the world of the piano past and present (i)
5.00 In Time Sean Rafferty introduces music including Prokofiev (Piano Sonata No 2), performed by Barry Douglas
7.30 Performance on 3: Endless Parade Introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville Timothy Hugh, cello, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra Under Osamo

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today Rural issue, with Anna Hill 6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor 9.00 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time Guests join Melvyn Bragg to consider ideas and events which have influenced the present age
9.30 Automatic for the People Alan Dein talks to people who once left their mark on vinyl by using auto-recording booths (3/4)
9.45 (FM) Serials: Just William — The 90th Anniversary (4/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour Sheila MacDonagh chats to Martine McCutcheon about her transition from soap star to singer
11.00 Crossing Continents An innovative scheme aimed to improve relations between Estonia and Russia by having farmers foster deprived children from the city
11.30 My Uncle Freddie by Alex Ferguson Comedy set on Tyneside charting the relationship between a boy and his uncle (4/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and investigations
1.00 The World at One with James Cox
1.30 Open Country Richard Udd encounters the wildlife of Norfolk's waterlands (i)
2.15 The Archers Yesterday's edition (i)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Woman of Ice An archaeologist working high in the Alps discovers a fantasy tale, princess in the ice. Bryony Lavery's fantasy tale, starring Suzanne Hamilton and Malicia Ziegler (i)
3.00 Call You and Yours 0870 010 0444 Consumer advice programme, presented by Peter White
3.28 Radio 4 Appraisal Professor Anthony Clare speaks on behalf of Obsessive Action (i)

Bob Harris Country
Radio 2, 7pm

Radio 2's country music output has been undergoing a rethink and the result is this new series, presented by the man who made breadly delivery something of a fashion during his time fronting *The Old Grey Whistle Test*. The arrival of Harris as presenter is in fact the main change to the programme and it will be interesting to see how well his laid-back style meshes with the upfront, "aw-shucks" approach that is the hallmark of most country music folk. The first programme should have little difficulty attracting an audience for it has Emmylou Harris in the studio, fresh from her second album collaboration with Linda Ronstadt and Dolly Parton. Harris (Emmylou, not Bob) talks about her new solo album. Peter Barnard

BBC WORLD SERVICE

6.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 World News Report 8.15 In Sight 8.30 Assignment 9.00 World News 9.05 From Our Own Correspondent 9.20 Off the Shelf News Of A Kidnapping 9.35 The World 10.00 World News 10.05 News 10.20 Andy Kersey's World of Music 10.30 Sports Round-Up 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Britain Today 11.45 World Business Report 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm Assignment 1.00 World News 1.05 Outlook 1.45 Sports Round-Up 2.00 Newsdesk 3.00 World News 3.05 The World 3.30 Menden Books 4.00 World News 4.05 Sports Round-Up 4.15 Westway 4.30 The Greenfield Collection 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 In Sight 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Record News Sports Round-Up 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.30 Today Assignment 8.00 World News 8.05 The World 8.30 Outlook A Hellish Brow 8.45 Off the Shelf News Of A Kidnapping 9.00 Newsdesk 9.05 World News 10.05 World Business Report 10.20 Britain Today 10.30 Menden Books 11.00 World News 11.15 Sports Round-Up 11.30 Blues World 12.00 World News 12.05am Outlook 12.45 In Sight 1.00 The World Today 1.30 The World 1.55 My Century 2.00 The World Today 2.30 Westway 2.45 Performance 3.00 The World Today 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 In Sight 4.00 The World Today 4.20 Sports Round-Up

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Michael Mappin's Easter Breakfast. A selection of morning music to start the day 8.00 Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Request Jane Jones presents favourite music 2.00pm Concert: Bach (Concerto for 3 Violins in D major) 3.00 Jamie Carr: Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. The latest headlines and sport updates 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Bunnings introduces classic sounds 8.00 Evening Concert. Britten (The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra); Vaughan Williams (A London Symphony); Wagner (Siegfried Idyll); Chabauty (Piano) and Juliet 11.00 Musical Night 2.00pm Concert: Bach (Concerto for 3 Violins in D major) (i) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

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3.00 Call You and Yours 0870 010 0444 Consumer advice programme, presented by Peter White
3.28 Radio 4 Appraisal Professor Anthony Clare speaks on behalf of Obsessive Action (i)

Choose a film for the way you feel tonight.

Anastasia

Sky Box Office, starting every 15 mins

The Rainmaker

Sky Box Office, starting every 30 mins

Devil's Advocate

Sky Box Office, starting every 60 mins

Good Will Hunting

Sky Box Office, starting every 60 mins

As Good As It Gets

Sky Box Office, starting every 60 mins

The Witches

Sky Premier 2 at 7.00pm

The Hustler

Sky Cinema Digital at 8.00pm

Spawn

Sky MovieMax 3 at 3.00pm

Grosse Pointe Blank

Sky Premier 2 at 9.00pm

The English Patient

Sky Premier 4 at 9.00pm

The Guns Of Navarone

Sky Cinema 2 at 9.00pm

The Devil's Own

Sky Premier 3 at 10.00pm

Jerry Maguire

Sky Premier Digital at 10.20pm

The Relic

Sky MovieMax 4 at midnight

Point Break

FilmFour at 10.00pm

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